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BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 28 • No. 16 • 16 April 1998

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THE GOOD NEWS

THE BAD NEWS

San Francisco equal benefits law upheld (mostly)

by Cynthia Laird

In what's been hailed as a historic decision, a federal judge has upheld San Francisco's landmark equal benefits law. U.S. District Judge Claudia Wilken issued the long-awaited 95-page opinion Friday, April 10 and ruled that in most circumstances the city can require contractors to offer domestic partner benefits to employees.

City officials were quick to hail the decision a victory, but so was the Air Transport Association (ATA), which filed the lawsuit last May. In the opinion, Wilken did rule that the airlines that have city contracts do not have to offer health and pension benefits — but the city can require them to offer other benefits, such as travel. Almost every major U.S. air carrier is a member of the ATA, although it was the efforts of two members, United Airlines and Federal Express, that pushed for the lawsuit because of leases they have at SFO.

"The judge has upheld the ordinance," City Attorney Louise Renne said at a hastily called news conference last Friday to announce the decision.

The ordinance that went into effect June 1, 1997 requires companies that do business

with the city to offer benefits to domestic partners of employees if they offer the benefits to employee spouses. Currently, more than 1,600 companies are in compliance with the law and offer benefits to domestic partners, according to Cynthia Goldstein with the Human Rights Commission, which administers the ordinance.



Tom Ammiano, Dennis Aftergut and Louise Renne are all smiles.

"We are very, very pleased with the decision," said deputy City Attorney Dennis Aftergut, who served as lead counsel on the case. "This is one small step for San Francisco and one giant leap for human rights. The equal benefits ordinance is valid in almost every circumstance."

Aftergut, however, acknowledged that it wasn't a total victory for the city. "The judge did rule the situation is a little different at the airport [San Francisco International]." In the

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Global accord imperils domestic partners laws

by Mark Mardon

Any illusion San Franciscans may harbor about their little city being comfortably isolated from a hostile outer world may soon come crashing down. Half a world away, in hushed negotiations tak-

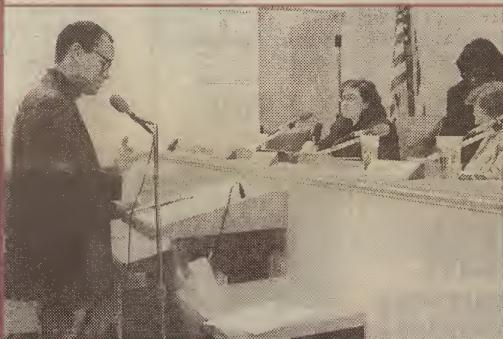
ing place in Paris, a global treaty is being hammered out that could, as soon as this summer, undermine San Francisco's sovereignty in legislating on issues ranging from health and workplace-safety regulations to domestic partners ordinances.

But last week at City Hall, the threat was exposed and the beginnings of local action against it were taken, all through the efforts of a vigilant gay San Franciscan who keeps a finger on the pulse of international wheel-

ings and dealings. Until gay activist and en-

vironmental-justice advocate Henry Holmes spoke up, almost no one in the local gay and lesbian community — nor anyone else, for that matter — had even heard of the Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI), much less known that it posed a threat to them.

In testimony before the Board of Supervisors' Health, Family and Environment Committee, Holmes outlined the disturbing ramifications of the developing accord. The MAI draft, he prefaced, is now being finalized by negotiators meeting in Paris under the auspices of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). That organization is made up of representatives from



Henry Holmes of SAGE wasn't smiling during his testimony about MAI.

the governments of the world's 29 wealthiest nations, led by the United States.

Holmes warned committee chair Sue Bierman and members Leslie Katz and Tom Ammiano that the MAI, if ratified by the U.S. Senate and signed into law by President Clinton, could seriously interfere with local governments across the U.S., penalizing them for placing any legislative barriers in the way of transnational corporations that want to invest within their jurisdictions.

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Latino groups fear further reduction of HIV funds

by Terrance Boykin

Take a population that has long been statistically at risk for HIV transmission, add problems of isolation and cultural barriers, and subtract already scarce AIDS prevention funds, and you have a situation crying out for action. Such is the case for Latino organizations in San Francisco, several of which sponsored a community forum on Tuesday, March 24 at the Brava Theatre, in response to an announcement from the San Francisco AIDS Office that unexpected cuts from the Center for Disease Control and Pre-

vention (CDC) could result in further budget cuts for the city's HIV prevention contractors.

City officials and members of the HIV Prevention Planning Council (HPPC) attended the forum, sponsored by AGUILAS, Inc., and its El Ambiente program; El Instituto Familiar de la Raza; The National Task Force on AIDS Prevention (NTFAP); and the Mission Neighborhood Health Center. Many concerned members of the Latino, gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities also attended the meeting to address growing concerns over the continued reduction of funding that has adversely affected various

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Erick Arguello

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Lesbians take action against assaults in Sonoma County

By Lois Pearlman

A series of assaults against lesbians, which many believed were committed by a single individual, has stirred Sonoma County lesbians and their allies to action.

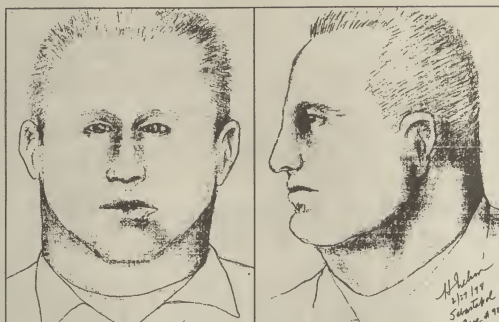
Several dozen people have formed an action group to find the man, or men, responsible for four alleged rapes in Santa Rosa, Cotati, and Rohnert Park, and one attempted sexual assault in Sebastopol.

The group has plastered the county with a police sketch of the man, sketched from descriptions provided by the Sebastopol victim, and set up a hotline that people can call with information that could lead to the man's apprehension.

The group is also planning a "take back the night" style march to be held later in the spring, and a benefit concert to fund free self-defense classes for women and girls.

The group's efforts stem from a series of at least five assaults against lesbians that reportedly occurred in February and March.

Only two of the attacks, the ones in Santa Rosa and Sebastopol, were reported to police.



Sketches provided by a description from a rape victim.

At least three other lesbians have contacted the action group to say they were raped in a similar manner, but they are afraid to call police, according to sources.

Zero tolerance

The Sebastopol attack took place as the complainant was leaving a meeting of lesbians and gay men at the Sebastopol Senior Center on February 23. The victim, according to police, managed to defend herself against the assailant, who shouted anti-lesbian remarks at her while two other young men stood by.

The woman described her attacker as a white male, about 20 years old, 6'2", and husky.

Following the attack Sebastopol Police Chief Dwight Crandall issued a statement saying his department has "zero tolerance for this type of crime." His department has continued to pursue an aggressive investigation of the incident.

A month later, another lesbian reported a similar attack near A'Roma Roasters and Coffee House in the Railroad Square area of Santa Rosa. But this time the woman was not able to protect herself.

She said she was leaving a lesbian and gay meeting when the man grabbed her from behind and raped her.

"He comes from behind. He's super big — all buffed up. He talks a lot, keeps saying things like, 'I'm going to get all you fucking dykes,' she said.

What appears to link all these incidents, including the three alleged rapes not reported to police, is the assailant's behavior. According to the victims, the man kept talking throughout his attacks, saying that he's out to get lesbians, and threatening to kill the women and members of their families.

He also claimed to know when and where gay and lesbian meetings are held, which is how he apparently chose his victims.

So far the action group's hot-

line has received over 60 calls, providing Sebastopol police with dozens of leads. However, according to Bob Smith, the Sebastopol PD officer in charge of the investigation, the victim has not been able to identify any of the men in photo line-ups.

But, according to Detective Stacey Camara of the Santa Rosa Police Department, who is investigating the Santa Rosa rape, the action group's efforts have had at least one positive result. There have been no new reported assaults on lesbians since the Santa Rosa incident.

She said her department is waiting for a positive ID on a suspect in the Sebastopol case before presenting a photo line-up to the victim of the Santa Rosa attack. Camara also agreed that it is very possible one man has committed all the assaults.


Meanwhile, the action committee is stepping up its attempts to flush out a suspect. The group is planning to offer a reward for information leading to the man's apprehension, and is posting its own information updates on a website located at <http://gaysonoma.com>.

Beyond its primary goal of finding the man or men responsible for the assaults, the group is considering forming an ongoing "community action committee" to respond to hate crimes, under the auspices of the Sonoma County Commission on Human Rights.

"I think this is a perfect opportunity to do that. This energy needs to be harnessed for future problems," said commission coordinator Irene Irizarry, who spoke at the group's April 9 meeting. ▼

The action committee has scheduled another meeting for 7 p.m., Thursday, April 23, at A'Roma Roasters, which is located at 95 Fifth Street, to which all members of the public are invited.

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Owner move-in ordinance gets second chance on appeal

by Mark Mardon

In a move that surprised and pleased many City Hall observers, the Board of Supervisors on Monday voted 7-0 in favor of urging City Attorney Louise Renne to appeal a superior court judge's April 3 ruling invalidating the city's ordinance restricting owner move-in evictions (OMIs). Renne heeded the Board's wish and promptly filed an appeal seeking to overturn the lower-court's decision.

Renne's action drew praise from Supervisor Tom Ammiano, who declared that "the city attorney was absolutely right to go

forward with the appeal. Aside from moral obligations, my sense of what she was saying is the judge didn't have a lot of sense in ruling."

In his ruling, Williamson held that "regardless of the good intentions espoused by the board, their actions [in passing the OMI ordinance] constitute a taking away of a fundamental noneconomic property right without due process protections."

In response, tenant activists cried foul, noting the Williamson cited no authority or prior cases to support his finding. Ammiano himself termed it "a weak ruling."

The OMI ordinance was originally sponsored by Supervisor

Mabel Teng as a way to protect elderly tenants from eviction. It was later amended at Ammiano's urging to include people with terminal illnesses. Yet even though the ordinance applied to a small portion of the city's tenant population, it was fiercely contested by landlord groups. They argued the measure unconstitutionally took away their right to move into their own buildings, even if that meant evicting long-term tenants who would be severely harmed by having to move out.

Following Superior Court Judge Raymond Williamson's ruling in favor of the landlords, Teng showed some reluctance to seek an appeal. But in the wake of spirited public outcry against the ruling by elderly tenants, people with AIDS, and others, Teng and her fellow supervisors pulled together to unanimously adopt Ammiano's resolution urging Renne to appeal Williamson's decision.

Whatever the outcome of the appeal, stressed Ammiano, "the real job we have now is to come up with a permanent solution so due process is served. The housing crisis is so intense that everybody deserves protection." ▼

Lambda celebrates 25th anniversary Palace Hotel gala planned

by Eric M. Rose

The Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund is celebrating its 25th anniversary today (Thursday, April 16) with a gala dinner at the Palace Hotel. The event will feature Lambda plaintiff Peter Mackler, a survivor of anti-gay brutality by the Los Angeles Police Department for whom Lambda won a record settlement last year; comedienne Marga Gomez; musician Paula West; and activist Mary Dunlap, director of the police watchdog Office of Citizen Complaints.

Members of the Board of Supervisors and other community leaders are also expected to be in attendance, and almost every major San Francisco law firm has purchased a table at the event, which Lambda says is a record show of support by the San Francisco Legal community.

"San Francisco has been a beacon to the country leading the way towards fairness and equality for lesbians, gays, and those with

HIV and AIDS," said Lambda Executive Director Kevin Cathcart. "Lambda is honored to have such celebrated guests join us in this city to commemorate our 25 years fighting to end the discrimination suffered by lesbians and gay men and their families."

The Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund is a national organization committed to achieving full recognition of the civil rights of lesbians, gay men, and people with HIV and AIDS through impact litigation, education, and public policy work. Headquartered in New York, and with offices in Los Angeles, Chicago, and Atlanta, Lambda has regional and national expertise in all aspects of sexual orientation and HIV-related law and policy. ▼

The Gala, to be held in the Palace Hotel's Gold Room, located at Montgomery and Market, begins with a 6 p.m. cocktail reception and dinner at 7 p.m. Tickets (\$150 and \$250) can be purchased at the door.

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TG bill passes first hurdle in Sacramento

by Marghe Covino
B.A.R. Capitol
Correspondent

Even after a heavy day of lobbying members at the Capitol and others in their district offices, the word around Sacramento on Monday, April 13 was that AB 1999, at the very best, would not pass out of the Public Safety Committee on first try. Instead, insiders speculated the bill, authored by State Assembly Speaker Pro Tem, Sheila Kuehl, D-Santa Monica, would go "on call" while proponents would try to garner enough votes for it to pass. Particularly worrisome were potential "no" votes from Carl Washington, D-Paramount, a minister with an anti-gay philosophy, and Don Perata, D-Alameda.

AB 1999 clarifies existing hate crimes law and strengthens the law under which hate crimes against transgender persons can be prosecuted. Current California hate crimes law provides penalty enhancements for violent crimes which are hate based and motivated by a victim's actual or per-

ceived race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, disability, gender or sexual orientation. The bill clarifies that a violent crime committed against a transgender person because of their gender is a hate crime based on current law. It also standardizes California's hate crime statutes by adding "gender" to the sections where it is missing. Law enforcement and DA offices except for San Francisco and Los Angeles have been reluctant to prosecute gender cases because the law was not specific; AB 1999 clarifies the law.

The relief and surprise were palpable as the bill passed the Public Safety Committee by a 7-0 vote Tuesday afternoon with one abstention. "We came out of the hearing in shock," one observer said, "we might actually get a signature on this." All of the Democrats — Robert Hertzberg, Sherman Oaks, Kevin Murray, Los Angeles, Grace Napolitano, Norwalk, Perata and Washington — voted for the bill. Republicans Larry Bowler, Elk Grove, and Jim Cuneen, Cupertino, voted aye while George House of Hughson abstained.

"I was dumbfounded," said Vicky Kolakowski, an East Bay attorney and supporter of the bill, "but the Republicans are dealing with it as a technical bill which clarifies the law and creates no substantial change in current law. I think that [Attorney General Dan] Lungren's letter of support gave them some cover too."

Committee members heard testimony from Stephen Thorne, an FTM transsexual who is a sergeant with the San Francisco Police Department. Thorne conducts training on transgender community issues for the San Francisco Police Academy. They also heard from Jim Provenza of the Los Angeles District Attorney's office. Other testimony included information on violence against transgender persons, ranging from assault to rape and murder, and inaction by law enforcement authorities in such cases.

AB 1999 will now be sent to the Assembly Appropriations Committee and must be heard by May 22. If it passes that committee the bill will go to the Assembly floor for a vote, before it goes on to Senate hearings. ▼

National Gender Lobby Days begin this Monday

by Liz Highleyman

The third National Gender Lobby Day — actually two days — will take place this Monday and Tuesday, April 20 and 21, in Washington, DC.

The theme of the Lobby Day will be "Community Values: Tolerance, Inclusion, Diversity." The event is intended for everyone interested in "gender, affectional, and racial equality." Participants are encouraged to lobby their senators and congressional representatives on issues of concern to sexual and gender minorities, including employment discrimination, hate crimes, HIV funding, and same-sex marriage. No previous lobbying experience is necessary. On the afternoon of Sunday, April 19, there will be an intensive workshop on national policy issues and skills training sessions such as "How to Lobby 101," followed by a general Lobby Day meeting to discuss talking points and to coordinate visits to legislators. Actual lobbying will take

place on Monday and Tuesday, beginning with a morning meeting on the Capitol building steps.

Lobby Day is sponsored jointly by GenderPAC, the International Foundation for Gender Education, FTM International, It's Time America!, Transgender Officers Protect and Serve (TOPS), the Intersex Society of North America, the Nation-

al Gay and Lesbian Task Force, BiNET USA, the National Coalition for Lesbian Rights, and the National Coalition for Sexual Freedom. ▼

To register for Lobby Day, call Riki Ann Wilchins at (212) 645-1753 or send e-mail to LobbyDay@gpac.org.

Clarifications and corrections:

Contrary to information previously provided to the B.A.R. and printed in last week's story "KQED rejects arbitration award in HIV discrimination suit," former KQED senior accountant Scott Flesher is not a person with AIDS. He is HIV-positive. Flesher's suit against public-station KQED alleges HIV discrimination, not AIDS discrimination.

Also, the phone number and zip code for Parallax Productions were incorrect in last week's story "Grassroots video grows: Free how-to video to medical pot patients." The correct phone number is 1-888-796-4529; the corrected mailing address would be: P.O. Box 2503, Pasadena, CA 91102-2503. We apologize for any inconvenience. ▼

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Dr. Kelly is the former manager of the HIV Neurobehavioral Research Center at University of California, San Diego.



COMMUNITY NEWS

Gays join Earth Day project Sunday Rally in GG Park to protest parking garage

by Mark Mardon

This Sunday, three days before Earth Day (which takes place internationally each April 22), a host of in-line skaters, bicyclists, garden lovers, conservationists, and folks who simply love strolling leisurely in traffic-free spaces will rally at noon in Golden Gate Park, protesting two propositions that threaten to bring more cars into the park.

Gays and lesbians figure heavily among the organizers of the rally and demonstration, which include such groups as the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition, Bay Area Inline Racers, Roller Divas, the San Francisco Green Party, the Haight Ashbury Neighborhood Council, and the San Francisco League of Conservation Voters.

Together they've formed the Alliance for Golden Gate Park, whose goal is to prevent approval and construction of a proposed 1,000-car parking garage beneath the Music Concourse that currently forms a sylvan oasis between the streets fronting the M. H. de Young Memorial Museum and the California Academy of Sciences.

"The garage is an environmentally and fiscally unsound idea," said Craig Snyder, a member of the SF Bicycle Coalition, "and, as a gay man, I believe it is important to make other gay men and women in the city aware of what is going on in the park."

Snyder said the Alliance's goal is to prevent passage of Proposition J, an initiative on the June ballot in San Francisco that would create a new "Public Benefit Authority" empowered to construct

a large underground parking facility in the eastern part of the park.

The Alliance also opposes Proposition A, a bond measure to rebuild the aging de Young Museum in the park. According to the Alliance, museum administrators have linked the rebuilding to the construction of an underground parking facility, as well as a "loading dock" the size of a football field.

"Our goal is a Golden Gate Park that is attractive and welcoming to all," said Alliance member Greg Gaar. "The proposed parking garage will attract more automobile traffic, damaging the quality of the park environment. It will increase traffic hazards, making the surrounding neighborhoods less safe. It won't improve access to the park for Muni riders, bicyclists, or pedestrians. We are concerned in this 'Transit-First City' about a proposal like this that overwhelmingly favors automobiles." ▼

Sunday's "Park, Not Parking" rally will begin at noon near 6th Avenue and Kennedy Drive. At 1 p.m. participants will walk, skate, and ride bicycles, unicycles, and all manner of non-motorized vehicles to the Music Concourse. For more info call (415) 431-5982, or visit <http://www.goldengatepark.org>

Under the rainbow



The Reverend Jim Mitulski speaks as a signer accompanies him at an April 11 pre-Easter event at Mt. Davidson. The controversial cross there was bathed in rainbow lights as congregation members from Metropolitan Community Church San Francisco and Sacramento joined in the rousing, if somewhat chilly, service.

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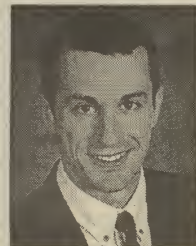
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OPEN FORUM

A tax and defenses

This year's Tax Day was as dispiriting as usual, considering the continuing rash of anti-gay legislation that is being discussed — and passed — around the country and in Washington, D.C.

We recently learned that Representative Charles Canady, a right wing Republican from Florida, may be drafting a "Defense of the Boy Scouts Act" in response to the recent court ruling in New Jersey that the Boy Scouts of America may not discriminate against gay kids. Canady is reportedly modeling the damn thing on the so-called "Defense of Marriage Act," proving once and for all that the Republican Party has abandoned its previous position that government shouldn't intrude into people's lives unnecessarily: we can't think of any governmental intrusion less necessary than codifying discrimination against children. Any children.

And that's what makes filing taxes so annoying: it's not that we mind paying rent to live in America (since that is, on its simplest level, what taxes are) but it's a drag to pay so much to landlords who are such assholes, and who range from not caring about our well-being to actively trying to harm us. As most readers know, the Defense of Marriage Act (DoMA) is a bill by Georgia Republican Bob Barr (who is, himself, already on his third marriage, so clearly if the institution is to be protected, it needs most of all to be saved from guys like him) to prevent gay and lesbian couples from formalizing their relationships. And, we must remind everyone at tax time, to prevent them from filing as married couples with all the financial benefits that come with it. But as bad as DoMA is, at least it is aimed at adults, who are somewhat better equipped to defend themselves than the children targeted by Canady's bill.

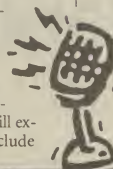
If Congress was entirely caught up on its homework of the necessary variety, we'd be less pissed off about this Defense of Scouting Act nonsense. Unfortunately, that is not the case; this Congress has accomplished less than any other in modern history — partly because it spends so much time on worthless crap like DoMA, DoSA, and DADT (Don't Ask, Don't Tell).

We're glad to live in California right now, despite its Republican governor, because this is still a state without its own version of DoMA on the books (more and more states do these days) and because our legislators are busy doing (or at least trying to do) some good for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender citizens. Most recently, on Monday, the Assembly Public Safety Committee passed Sheila Kuehl's bill that will expand hate crime definitions to include crimes against transsexuals.

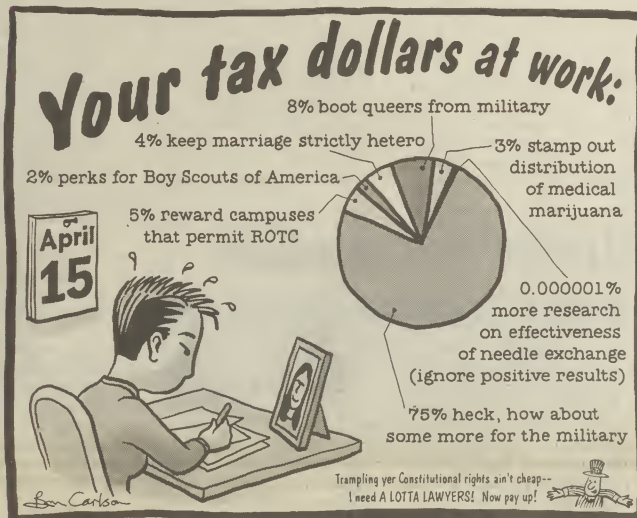
We urge the rest of the Assembly to follow suit, and then the Senate to do likewise. The recent murder of a gay man on the streets of San Francisco (from a single punch) shows how fragile life is and how devastating acts of violence are. Hate crime sentencing enhancements don't bring victims back to life,

of course, but they might give prospective assailants one more thing to consider before going on a rampage. If the law prevents one act of violence against one transgender person (or person thought to be transgender) and, honestly, if it prevents one person from going out bashing and then finishing life behind bars in a California penitentiary (which is, let's face it, a waste of a life), it will be worth the time the legislators have spent putting the statute together.

Not that that's enough. We're still waiting for Community United Against Violence — or anybody else with a sense of civic duty — to offer self-defense classes to the gays, lesbians, bisexuals, and transgenders who need them. Anything as important as saving lives can't be left in the hands of lawmakers! ▼



Editorial



Oversee the overseers!

Or, Why real FDA reform is doomed

by Representative Ron Klink (D-PA)

A prepared statement before the House Commerce Committee Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, chaired by Representative Joe Barton (R-TX), April 1, 1997.

Although it's reported that today's hearing is on Food and Drug Administration (FDA) management, it should really be about the management of FDA oversight by this subcommittee.

Before I begin, let me make one point very clear. I support the concept of FDA oversight by this subcommittee. But after the majority has subjected the FDA to numerous interviews and the production of truckloads of documents on subjects ranging from sex to missing computer parts, I still can't determine what this hearing is about.

At first glance, I thought that over the course of this inquiry, your staff was doing a "real" audit of the FDA and following "real" auditing guidelines. But curiously, no formal report or audit was ever prepared. It seems that in its place, you have cobbled together a rather Byzantine collection of "selective" findings from audits conducted by others and combined them with both speculation and innuendo to produce this hearing. Consequently, I don't understand for what deeds we should hold the FDA accountable today.

I'm confused for other reasons as well. For one thing, the FDA claims that most of the findings on which this hearing is based have either been fixed or are being fixed. And of the problems identified, many were apparently found by the FDA, itself; in fact,

the FDA took action to implement the corrections.

I am thus perplexed as to what it is we are trying to do with this hearing. Are we to praise the FDA and Dr. Friedman for the work they have done to fix earlier-identified problems or should we blast them for what they haven't done? Which of your staff's findings are accurate and which are inaccurate? Moreover, are the findings on which this hearing is based serious and out-of-the-ordinary, or do they represent only day-to-day issues faced by most agencies in the course of doing business? In other words, how do we put today's findings into any context, Mr. Chairman? I must admit, I don't know the answers here.

But let's go on to say a thing or two about witnesses. I am not sure if the clumsiness of witness selection has more to do with the subcommittee's general ineptness or just that today is April Fool's Day. Were you playing a joke on the minority when you waited until late last Friday before telling us you'd be adding "mystery" witnesses to an already confused hearing? And were you playing another joke on us when you told us that we would not be given their names until this Monday, just 48 hours before the hearing? How do we assess a witness's testimony, let alone its accuracy, when we learn his or her identity so late in the game? Further, how do you expect the FDA to provide testimony constructive to the oversight process when they're not told the identity of witnesses until after they have submitted their testimony for clearance? Is the subcommittee that disorganized? What

is the purpose of this?

But there's more, Mr. Chairman. Why wasn't the Office of the Inspector General invited as a witness? Your own staff's testimony makes mention of the IG's work at least 14 times! And for good reason. It was the IG that did many of the audits on which your work is based. Why isn't the IG here to provide context to your findings? Are we worried that if the IG came, they could actually provide accuracy?

In contrast, why was the GAO [General Accounting Office] invited? I respect the GAO, Mr. Chairman. I like the GAO. The GAO is a friend of mine. But, quite frankly, the GAO had nothing to do with your investigation.

In fact, in the entire 25-page draft testimony submitted to the subcommittee, the word "FDA" isn't mentioned even a single time. Not once! Other than a feeble attempt at providing the "appearance" of legitimacy to today's hearing, their testimony provides only the obvious: That agencies like the FDA should have solid internal controls and sound management practices. What a breakthrough. Next time, let's have a panel of construction workers tell us that agencies should also have buildings with roofs and windows.

Mr. Chairman, I want to work with you. I really do. I want to help you do the kind of oversight that's badly needed over the many agencies and departments within our jurisdiction. But given the way this and similar investigations have been assembled, and the way witnesses are selected, helping this subcommittee do its job is virtually impossible. ▼

Guest Opinion



LETTERS

Men of All Colors thank you together

The board of directors of Men of All Colors Together wants to thank you for the fine article you published about our organization in your March 12, 1998 issue. Your reporter, Terrance Boykin, did an outstanding job in focusing on what our group is all about and describing our accomplishments and activities of interest to the larger community.

We believe that reportage such as this provides a major service to the gay and multiracial communities.

MACT Board of Directors
Kevin Boulds, Co-Chair
Ted Friedman, Co-Chair

Praise for the review that matters

Please continue to publish Jim Nawrocki, his review of Michael Lassell's *A Flame for the Touch That Matters* was incisive commentary at its best. Nawrocki's insistence on literary merit is wonderful to find amongst the plethora of critics who consider honesty and emotion equatable to art. Thank you Mr. Nawrocki: for your concern with form, denoting the odious practice of breaking one's diary into lines and calling it poetry, and not ascribing praise on the basis of painful content alone.

Anna Bergman
San Francisco

Rank (and rank-and-file) discrimination

I do not accept football player Reggie White's purported apology that he faxed to the *Milwaukee Journal* newspaper. Reggie White is not sorry that he made anti-gay remarks to the Wisconsin State Assembly because "he did not want to slight anyone." He's sorry that, because he attacked a group of people who are not willing to take it, he may lose product endorsements and may have thwarted his broadcast career with CBS. He's sorry that he might lose money. He's sorry that he got caught with his big mouth open.

If he were not so blinded by hate he might be able to look into the recent past of black America and see that the Bible and religious rhetoric were used in the suppression of the rights and freedoms of his own race. Just as Southern Baptists are historically remembered for their denunciation of support of slavery, Reggie White, an ordained minister and a very privileged individual, has joined the rank and file of those self-professed Christians who will be remembered for their hatred and repression of fellow American citizens.

Reggie White has not entered the kingdom of glory, but has fallen into the depths of discrimination and hate speech and the lesson that must be learned by Mr. White and those who support his remarks is that "Hate is not a family value."

Jon-Ivan Weaver
Atlanta, Georgia

I come not to bring peace, but a sword

Re: Jesus Who?

Several letters appear in the 2 April *B.A.R.*, critical of my comments on homelessness of two weeks ago. One is from Rev. Robert Cromey of Trinity Episcopal. This fellow, an old broken record of every imaginable worn-out leftist cliché, delivers his typical meatless rhetorical pap and does not warrant reasoned response.

Patrick O'Higgins (notably a resident not of the Castro but of far off San Pablo) is a member of MCC and mounts the pulpit to tell us to follow the teachings of "the gentle, compassionate Jesus of Nazareth." He then proceeds to launch a savage assault, dripping with vitriol, against the 12 Step Programs. Such bitterness and universal condemnation as his seem only to come from the mouths of failed 12 Steppers and liberal Christians.

Perhaps Mr. O'Higgins is subconsciously a follower of the nasty Jesus of Nazareth known to history. You know, the one who drove people from the temple with a whip; who said "I come not to bring peace, but a sword;" who called his God "Father;" and who ran around with a group of married men while they all lived off the earnings of their women followers (the "Marys" et al.).

Yet why oh why should gay people in the Castro pay any attention to the teachings of some "dead white male" from 2,000 years ago whose followers have ever since persecuted, tortured and burned at the stake gay men, lesbian women, and anyone else with whom they disagreed?

Perhaps a good religious model for us would be the gods of the pagan Europeans or those of the Native Americans who propounded strength, personal responsibility and communal integrity as opposed to the sentimentally inspired feeding of rude and violent bums.

David Banton
San Francisco

The Friday blahs

I typically enjoy the weekly vacuous post-*Chronicle* drivel of your political columnist, Wayne Friday. In his April 2 "kiss-up" to conservatives fest, however, Friday's defense of Jane Harman was not only reckless, but baseless. Downplaying the importance of First Amendment rights, needless constitutional amendments, and an anti-labor voting history only tends to minimize the direct impact that these issues have on our community. It seems Friday couldn't recognize a "socially" progressive candidate if one were standing in front of him.

The facts about Jane Harman speak for themselves. Recently reported, Harman lobbied for and profited blood money from China during the massacres at Tienanmen Square. If it weren't such a tragedy, I suppose her Reaganesque laden claim of amnesia could be considered humorous. Harman has sided with Republicans on issues that are exclusionary, for the extreme wealthy, in favor of big corporations and against First Amendment rights. Most queer folks I know would not benefit from this voting pattern. Harman is no more progressive than Dan Lungren. In fact, the message from this year's selection of prima donna gubernatorial candidates is that campaign finance reform is a big joke and "fiscal conservatives" are laughing all the way to the bank. Oh, these issues are burning, Mr. Friday. They also extend beyond those little bills that just happen to say the word "gay."

Michael L. Rouppe
San Francisco

Needy Latinos vs. greedy SFAF

Recently I attended an emergency meeting at the Brava Theatre. Members of El Ambiente, Aguilas, Proyecto Contra Sida, and Instituto Familiar De La Raza were all represented to discuss the funding crisis they face. Many of these organizations have experienced a 50 percent funding cut over the past four years. These organizations all serve the Latino gay, bisexual, transgender community. What I found shocking is that these organizations funding budgets pivot on as little as \$10,000 a year. The largest organization was in need of \$50,000. How is it the mayor's office, SF HIV Prevention Council, SF Health Commission, and other decision-making bodies determine which organizations are to get the ax, while bloated dysfunctional Titans such as SFAF continue to swallow gargantuan sums of Ryan White Care money to meet executive staff salaries — which at SFAF are well over a million dollars a year!

The question of racism cannot be avoided here. Are the basic healthcare services of the Latino community to be sacrificed for the elitist needs of Big Bucks Patty & Co.? It is sheer arrogance on the part of SFAF to believe that they, and they alone, can meet the needs of the entire city. The Latino community is a complex and diverse one. I have friends from Spain, Argentina, Puerto Rico, Cuba, Central America, Mexico City, as well as Chicanos from all over the country, who come here for refuge. Many of these people are intellectuals, political dissidents, artists, writers, performers, playwrights, actors and, yes, many of them are gay and HIV-positive. There is no question that decentralized community-based organizations are much more effective with their hands-on approach than centralized bureaucratic monstrosities such as SFAF. The complex and subtle language and cultural differences are reason enough to support and defend these projects. It is an insult and an outrage that the Latino community continues to be put on the back burner, a mere consideration. The proximity of SF to Mexico and the history of this city is reason enough to make the Latino community a priority. If these organizations fold it will be our own complacency that allows for it to happen. I have yet to be convinced that Pat Christen Inc. is truly a friend of the HIV-positive PWA community. If she were she would be gracious enough to write a check from her own bank book and help these organizations out of the financial crisis that she in great part is responsible for.

Ronnie Burk
San Francisco

[Editor's note: For more information on that meeting and its effects, see Terrence Boykin's article on page one.]

The Chardonnay offense

As regards the letter from Jim Grise, "The Chardonnay defense," [Mailstrom, March 26] there are reasons society has laws specifying a legal minimum age for buying and consuming alcohol. The understanding is that those persons are mature enough to be responsible for their actions while/when drinking alcohol. When a person is found unable to maintain proper decorum while imbibing, they should stop drinking. A person who drinks alcohol must be prepared to face the consequences of their behavior.

William J. Coburn
San Francisco

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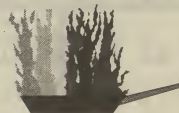
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Vote No on Prop. E

I want to express my appreciation of lesbian and gay local and state elected officials for coming out for rent control. On June 2, voters will decide whether rent control should be repealed for at least 50,000 apartments in 2-4 unit buildings. If Proposition E wins, rent control would end immediately.

Supervisor Tom Ammiano, Supervisor Leslie Katz, and State Assemblywoman Carol Migden all signed on to a ballot argument against Proposition E. They all categorically rejected the disingenuous, manipulative argument that rent control is bad for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community.

Recently, some lesbian and gay realtors, direct monetary beneficiaries of the repeal of rent control, have tried to argue that because current law does not allow owners to evict tenants to move in their domestic partners, we should repeal rent control. This argument is patently untrue. Proposition E has nothing to do with this issue. Proposition E does nothing to address this problem.

The law does allow for a wife to do an OMI eviction for a husband and vice versa into another unit in the same building. In 1995, then-Supervisor Migden explored allowing OMI evictions for domestic partners. Ironically, the tenants groups supported her in this efforts because the tenants movement believed and still believes in equal rights and privileges for the LGBT community. However, because the city domestic partners ordinance requires the partners to reside together, the city attorney said it was not possible.

In 1996, Tenants groups drafted OMI legislation that contained provisions that would have allowed domestic partners to combine ownership percentages and thus be allowed to evict for each of their relatives. Interestingly, the same landlords who are backing Proposition E, and are trying to get your vote, vigorously opposed this legislation and it failed.

Finally, what the realtors' argument also fails to acknowledge is that most members of the LGBT community are the very same people they seek to evict.

Next, lesbian and gay realtors argue that current eviction protections for HIV-positive tenants hurt the lesbian and gay community. In other words, since chronically ill HIV-positive tenants cannot be evicted, landlords may begin to discriminate against potential tenants who are perceived to be gay or lesbian.

Again, this argument is disingenuous and manipulative. What this argument seeks to do is to divide us, and ultimately conquer us. It sets HIV-negative folks against HIV-positive people, and all for the benefit of their own pocket books. I find it hard to believe that lesbian and gay realtors are actually concerned about the discrimination I face in finding housing. Don't buy into their manipulative arguments, vote no on E.

Robert J. Haaland
SF Tenants Union

Vote yes on Prop. E

Written roommate contracts will become a necessity on May 25th! Common sense would dictate that when you invite someone to share your apartment, you retain the right to ask that person to move should you find yourselves incompatible. Right?

No. This isn't common sense to City Hall. On May 25th, the only way to retain that right will be via a written agreement. They've decided that too many roommates are being evicted these days, roommates misled into believing that they had permanent occupancy rights in your apartment, no matter how they behaved or how your life plans might change. At the same time, they've decided that roommates should be able to sublet their rooms to strangers and to invite others to share their rooms without additional rent.

City Hall has decided that we don't have enough common sense to run our own homes without written agreements between everyone we live with — our roommates, our lovers, and our family members!

I don't want such contracts in my home, so I'm voting YES on E in June. Hopefully, all San Franciscans who respect their privacy will do likewise.

Bill Trumbo
San Francisco

Mexico — It ain't Southern California

On a recent trip to Puerto Vallarta, I experienced harassment by the Mexican police. While there are a few stories of violence and short jail terms, the usual scenario goes like this: the police (always in pairs) stop you to ask a few silly questions and start searching you, like that. They are looking for "anything illegal," weed, coke, pills, "inhalants," pipes. If they find anything, you'll probably get off with a 200 peso bribe (about \$21 U.S.). I was stopped at night in the gay district (note: stay off the beach at night) and luckily, I had no contraband on me. Puerto Vallarta is a bargain and still quite lovely, but be careful, party at the hotel, and if you go out alone at night, take cabs. If you have to carry something, I'm told your crotch is usually off limits to the police. That's it.

T.C. Healy
San Francisco

Self-protection is more than a whistle

Although I support the use of whistles as tool for addressing gay bashing, they are only one aspect of an overall effective self-defense posture. Twenty years of living as an openly queer man in urban environments and surviving my own gay bashing have given me some insight into self-protection which I would like to share:

Reality check. The police and anti-bashing groups, however well meaning, do little to protect us as we move around the city as individual openly queer persons. All queers are at risk since bashers perceive us all as targets. I suggest that each of us develop our own self-defense strategy, then practice it every day.

Prevention. Always be aware of your surroundings. Know who is behind and ahead of you. Walk with confidence and dignity. Meet the gaze of suspicious persons and move on quickly. Don't be reluctant to cross the street or double back and go a different route. You'd be surprised how much trouble can be avoided just by keeping your eyes and ears open and being ready to react and escape.

Fight back. Although controversial to some, I have no problem recommending that queers fight back when cornered. If you can effectively escape without blows, do so. But remember that bashing is about power and dominance. Adopting a posture of submission can be construed by your attacker as an invitation to proceed. Self-defense experts agree that if you have a chance to strike just one blow, you could disorient your attacker long enough for you to make an escape — especially if he is intoxicated. Go for the groin, throat or eyes. Don't be afraid to permanently hurt the asshole. Use your feet, palm, fist, fingers, keys or any sharp object. Use all the force you can then run like hell.

Intervene. Physically intervene, if you are capable and willing. You can also do hundreds of things to intervene in a bashing and distract an attacker from a safe distance. Blow your whistle, shout "FIRE" as loud as you can, throw a bottle or rock, set off a car or fire alarm, memorize the attacker's description, call 911, etc. In short, do something. Ask yourself what you would expect a complete stranger to do if it were you being attacked, then do it. The next time, it could very well be you.

Allen Carson
San Francisco

Lube job

On the 23rd of this month I am going to Bulgaria to volunteer for a week for the Bulgarian Gay Organization GEMINI. The group deals with HIV/AIDS prevention issues.

Their most urgent need is for lube with spermicidal ingredients (Nonoxonyl-9) and lubricated condoms with spermicidal ingredients. Currently, neither is available in Bulgaria.

To my horror, I was told that the majority of gay people have started using Lidocaine ointment in lieu of lube. Upon doing some research on the Internet, I discovered that Lidocaine is actually a Novocain, used in hospitals for numbing pain after surgeries.

The use of Lidocaine for sexual purposes imposes a multitude of dangers: if a tissue is damaged during sexual intercourse, or the condom ruptures, the people would not feel or notice it until the day after. If bleeding is caused (anal or otherwise), this also will not be felt by the people having sex, at least until the day after, when the numbing effect of the Lidocaine is worn off. Additionally, there is no indication anywhere that Lidocaine acts as a spermicidal, or kills the HIV virus.

I would like to ask people for donations of lube with Nonoxonyl-9 and lubricated condoms with Nonoxonyl 9 for GEMINI. As I said, neither one is available in Bulgaria, and there is no governmental or other support for HIV/AIDS prevention. As a matter of fact, on March 9 of this year the government enacted a pro-discrimination law for mandatory HIV testing for any foreign person residing in Bulgaria for more than a month. Currently, the government is discussing a bill to discontinue government subsidies for HIV testing, and force any person taking the HIV test to pay from their own pocket. The average salary in Bulgaria is \$30 a month. I don't know how much an HIV test costs in Bulgaria, however, my guess is that it will be close to a monthly salary.

Your help will of great importance to saving people's lives in Bulgaria.

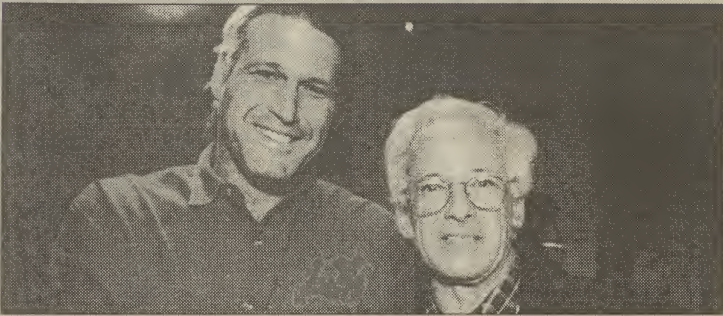
I will be leaving for Bulgaria on the 23rd of this month. Until then you can e-mail me at LaFab@sirius.com or phone my home at (415) 431-1178. After that, supplies can be sent to Gemini, P.O. Box 123, Sofia 1784, Bulgaria; e-mail geonick5@cserv.mgu.bg or fax 011 359 2 817-271.

Peter Elkins
San Francisco

[Please advise the Bulgarians, and anyone else using Nonoxonyl-9, they should avoid using too much and irritating their skin. Unfortunately, there are better HIV-killing lubes than N-9 being tested in Europe; maybe someday they'll be available in Bulgaria. Or America.]

POLITICS

Dan and Dennis



Green Party California gubernatorial hopeful Dan Hamburg (left) is joined by GOP candidate Dennis Peron at an April 3 fundraiser for Hamburg thrown by attorney Tony Serra. A former Mendocino County supervisor and U.S. congressman, Hamburg authored the Headwaters Forest Act. He is currently the executive director of VOTE Action Committee, which is dedicated to challenging our country's two-party "duopoly." For more information, call 1-888-464-4498 or e-mail: green-cal98@greens.org.

Treading the boards

A B.A.R. guide to ASO and HIV prevention agency meetings

This is a partial list of San Francisco AIDS service organizations (ASO) and prevention agency board meetings taking place in April, plus any procedure that members of the public have to complete before attending the meeting.

AIDS Benefits Counselors
Board of Directors meeting
Robert Emerson, board president
Thursday, April 23; 7 p.m.
1675 California Street
Conference room
Anyone can drop in;
free parking in building.
Info: (415) 703-9943

Continuum
Board of Directors meeting
Bill Glenn, executive director
Wednesday, April 22; 6 p.m.
255 Golden Gate Avenue
Non-board members need to call 24 hours in advance because it's a secured building. Leave message for board secretary at (415) 437-2900.

Project Open Hand
Board of Directors meeting
Tom Nolan, executive director
Tuesday, April 21; 5:30 p.m.
730 Polk Street
Anyone can drop in.
Info: (415) 447-2468

Shanti
Board of Directors meeting
Bob Rybicki, executive director
Tuesday, April 28; 5:45 p.m.
1546 Market Street
Anyone can drop in.
Info: (415) 487-4730

Meeting information should be sent to Cynthia Laird at the Bay Area Reporter, 395 9th Street, San Francisco, CA 94103 or call (415) 861-5019. Local nonprofit HIV/AIDS groups may submit board meeting information by Friday, April 24 for inclusion in May's listing.

Leno to appear at Latino club meeting, Alice club makes endorsements

by Cynthia Laird

Local queer Democratic clubs are in the midst of a flurry of activity, with one hosting newly appointed Supervisor Mark Leno at its meeting this Saturday, and another hosting an endorsement meeting last Monday that was attended by over 100 people.

Leno will be the guest at the Saturday, April 18 meeting of Ambiente Latino Democratic Club, said co-chair John Lira. Leno will take the opportunity to meet with leaders in the queer Latino community and discuss issues that are of concern to lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Latino residents.

"Mark Leno has a long history supporting social causes that impact the lives of lesbians and gays," said Lira. "We feel Mark will continue this great tradition on the Board of Supervisors."

In other club news, the Alice B. Toklas Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club met Monday, April 13, where over 100 members showed up and voted for endorsements. Congresswoman Jane Harman received the endorsement in the governor's race. Alice members were motivated by Harman's vote against the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), her early endorsement by Assemblywoman Carole Migden, and the club's belief that she is the strongest candidate the

Democrats have against anti-gay extremist Dan Lungren, the likely Republican nominee.

The club also came out against San Francisco's Proposition 1, the project notification ballot measure. For a complete list of endorsements for the June primary, people can call (415) 241-9913. ▼

The Ambiente meeting is open to the public and is being held from 4 to 4:30 p.m. in the Ray Benson Community Room at the Mission Police Station, located on the corner of 17th and Valencia streets. For more information, call (415) 239-6612.

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Up in smoke

by Beth Elliott

Loot! Loot! Loot! That Cigarette Dept.: All that activist talk about "greed" has come home to roost, it would seem. Those who appointed themselves our protectors from the evil tobacco companies got greedy and forgot to quit while they were ahead. Once they figured out they might have a gold mine in the tobacco settlement, perhaps they decided, hey — we've got some evil capitalists by the short hairs!

Let's finally tax at least the tobacco rich till there ain't no more tobacco rich. They didn't stop to think that taking away the Vaseline once the industry's butts were in the air (pun intended) might be a poor move.

In case you missed the details, Congress had worked out a settlement with the tobacco companies that would have them pay \$15 billion a year for 25 years to reimburse costs of providing medical care for long-term smokers. The tobacco companies would also stop any advertising that could be

construed as being targeted toward minors, and the tax on cigarettes would be raised to the point that fewer people could afford to smoke them. In exchange for the cumulative \$368 billion, their product liability would be capped at \$5 billion annually.

No amount of lobbying was going to get the tobacco companies out of this; voting against the pact would be certain political death. But the looters got greedy. Congress raised the annual tribute from \$15 billion a year to \$20 billion, and lifted the lawsuit immunity. Last week, the tobacco companies finally balked — understandably. It's one thing to go hundreds of billions of dollars into pocket to buy peace; it's another to pay an even greater sum for protection without getting the protection. Now they're saying they're going to reject the proposed settlement and fight the advertising restrictions on First Amendment grounds.

The net result will be that advertising restrictions, even if they are upheld, won't go into effect for years. Meanwhile, smokers claiming to be victims of the peddling of an addictive drug will have to take their individual chances in court against industrial giants before dying — all thanks to some people's greed for the power to do large scale social engineering with other people's money.



I knew the hyenas were circling the big, fat wildebeest the day I came out of the Rockridge Safeway pushing a grocery cart and got asked to sign a petition that would reserve a large chunk of the new tax revenues for schools. Now, I believe that providing children with a better education is not only a good idea but a very smart one. And the new tax wouldn't be any skin off my tush.

Sapphistication

Nonetheless, the sad fact is that a lot of poor and working folks smoke, which makes this a regressive tax. Above and beyond that, I'm not at all comfortable with the mentality that any new opportunity for the government to tax people should be exploited — absolute power corrupting absolutely, and all that. The government (Democrat or Republican ... check out the new highway bill) taking more and more of our money, dangling spending programs like carrots in front of us,

and getting us to fight each other to get some share of our own money back? I don't think so, Jack. The only people that benefit are the politicians dangling the carrot ... and the people with dreams of all the things they could do with other people's money ... if only they had the power to seize it.

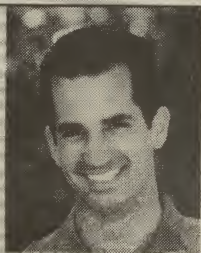
So, I expressed my doubts about looting an addicted population. The canvasser said the tax was going to go through anyway, so "we" might as well take advantage of it. I had to tell her I couldn't support that type of behavior, and declined to sign.

The only morally legitimate way I see to do this tax is making it a pay-as-you-go plan that has smokers paying for their own medical care for smoking-related diseases. That's something like the Prop. 186 California single-payer health insurance plan, eh? I would include programs to help people quit smoking under the medical care part. Perhaps some of their money could go toward prevention programs, but, as a lesbian,

page 27 ►

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HISTORY LESSON

Our great Society

by David Bianco

Last week in gay history: The Mattachine Society open its first convention, held in Los Angeles in April 11, 1953.

In 1950, a handful of gay men with Communist Party ties began meeting at the home of music teacher and union organizer Harry Hay in the Silverlake neighborhood of Los Angeles. They created what is now recognized as the first long-standing U.S. organization devoted to advancing gay rights — the Mattachine Society. At its first convention three years later, however, the original leaders stepped down, and the group shifted away from its leftist beginnings toward a more conservative outlook.

The idea for the Mattachine Society emerged in 1948, when Hay, an active member of the Communist Party, attended a gathering for supporters of presidential candidate Henry Wallace. During the soiree, it became clear that all of the men there were gay. Hay and others facetiously talked

about forming a group called "Bachelors for Wallace," which would support Wallace if he added a plank about sexual privacy to his platform. Though Bachelors for Wallace never got off the ground, Hay was intrigued by the idea of a homosexual rights organization and began looking for others to help him make it a reality.

"No boy or girl, approaching the maelstrom of deviation, need make that crossing alone, afraid and in the dark, ever again."

Two years later, Hay finally found men who shared his vision. One was his lover, Rudi Gernreich, an Austrian Jewish costume designer who would later achieve fame in the 1960s as the creator of the topless swimsuit. The others were fellow Communist Party members, Bob Hull and Chuck Rowland, and writer Dale Jennings. These core members began meeting in secret at each others' homes and took the name the Mattachine Society, after an all-male performance troupe in medieval Europe.

Early meetings hammered out the philosophy of the group, one that had never been articulated before in America — that gay people were an oppressed minority with their own distinct culture, of which they should be proud. In April 1951, the Mattachine founders formalized the group's mission statement, listing as its main purpose the unification of homosexuals in a fight for their own emancipation.

Through word of mouth and by distributing flyers about the organization at gay bars, beaches, and other hangouts, the Mattachine Society grew exponentially within the first few years. Members met in small "guilds," or discussion groups, to propose actions to improve the lot of gay people. The organization quickly expanded to other cities along the California coast. While most members were men, lesbians also became involved, though mostly in the Northern California guilds.

Some guild meetings attracted as many as 200 people. For many newcomers, it was the first time they had not felt alone or isolated in their sexual desires. On the other hand, the need for secrecy and the model of the American Communist Party resulted in a series of extreme and even arcane rituals, such as a candlelit initiation ceremony for guild leaders and a solemn oath that "no boy or girl, approaching the maelstrom of deviation, need make that crossing alone, afraid and in the dark, ever again."

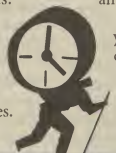
Over the next few years, the Mattachine evolved in several ways. As the organization grew, its

passed to the more conservative leadership of men like Hal Call (now the owner/operator of San Francisco's Circle J Theatre) and Kenneth Burns. Burns urged the Mattachine membership to follow "a pattern of behavior that is acceptable to society in general and compatible with [the] recognized institutions ... of home, church, and state."

Within the next two years, membership dropped off sharply. By 1955, most of the group's efforts went into publishing a magazine called *The Mattachine Review*.

New members did not learn about the radical origins of the organization, and throughout the 1950s the Mattachine Society advocated for the assimilation of homosexuals into mainstream America. The national organization finally disbanded in 1961, but several local groups continued to use the name Mattachine well into the 1960s. Several of these, like the Washington, DC chapter headed by Frank Kameny, were militant in the style of the original founders, and their activism helped shape the gay liberation movement of the 1970s. ▼

David Bianco, M.A. is the author of *Modern Jewish History for Everyone*. He can be reached care of this publication or at AriBianco@aol.com. For more Past Out, visit www.gay.net.



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EAT IN
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Sheehan comes out in Golf World

by Don Romesburg,
GLAAD/SF media resource
center manager

In a March 27 *Golf World* column by LPGA golfer Patty Sheehan, the champion pro athlete comes out as a lesbian who is raising her adopted daughter with her partner, Rebecca Gaston.

"I didn't really know how well others would deal with the idea of Bryce having two moms, but I've decided if they have a problem with it, it's their problem, not mine," writes Sheehan. "There are too many children in this world who don't have an equal chance in life and who aren't loved to worry about what other people think. We have the means to provide Bryce with a comfortable upbringing and, more importantly, we have the desire to be loving and devoted mothers. ... Bryce knows that she's loved and wanted now."

She also says, "I think there are a lot of men and women like me — people who spent much of their 20s and 30s devoting themselves to their careers, and put off starting a family until their 40s. After years of believing we would make ideal parents — and having many of our friends and family tell us the same thing — it's been wonderful to finally take on this new challenge."

Sheehan, who is an 18-year veteran of the Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA) and inductee to the LPGA Hall of Fame in 1993, won the Nabisco Dinah Shore title in 1996, has twice won the U.S. Women's Open, and has more than 35 total career titles to date.

"Patty Sheehan is breaking down barriers in sports and in society," said GLAAD Executive Director Joan M. Garry. "For a professional athlete to come out as a lesbian mom takes a great deal of courage. As a mother myself, I greatly appreciate her stance on this issue: Love is at the heart of parenting, and lesbian and gay people are as committed to that ideal as anyone. Her voice resonates to many thousands of fans, and she is sending an accurate, positive message about our community."

Please commend Patty Sheehan for her courage to step out of the closet and thank *Golf World* for providing her a forum in which to do it.

Contact: Al Tays, Managing Editor, *Golf World Magazine*, 5520 Park Ave., Trumbull, CT 06611-3426; and Patty Sheehan, c/o Rebecca Gaston, P.O. Box 11675, Reno, NV 89510

'Militant lesbians' on Parade?

In the "Personality Parade" column of the April 5 *Parade* magazine, gossip columnist Walter Scott makes several bizarre assertions about openly bisexual rock star Ani DiFranco and her fans. The question asked of Scott is "I thought Grammy nominee Ani DiFranco was gay. Now I hear she's dating a guy. What's up?" Scott responds, "DiFranco, 27, is bisexual. She won't say if the relationship [with Andrew Gilchrist] is monogamous or if she has given up women for the time being. Her fans — many of whom are militant lesbians — may be upset by her current sexual preference."

Clearly, Scott harbors a host of misconceptions about lesbians and bisexuals. First, by focusing on the issue of monogamy, Scott assumes that bisexuals are more likely to be promiscuous than any of the heterosexual celebrities he

discusses each week. Second, by juxtaposing monogamy against "giv[ing] up women for the time being," Scott is bringing out the stereotype that being bisexual means having relations with men and women concurrently, as opposed to what it really means, which is having sexual interest in both genders, regardless of the number or genders of current romantic partners.

Third, the phrase "militant lesbians" is meaningless, since Scott fails to explain what these lesbians might be "militant" about, or, for that matter, why bisexuality would upset them. By saying "may be upset," Scott reveals he is just speculating based on his own preconceived notions. While some lesbian DiFranco fans, and other fans, for that matter, may be upset by her being bisexual, many more are not, and they celebrate DiFranco's courage to be honest publicly about her sexual orientation. Lastly, by calling her sexual orientation a "current sexual preference," Scott seems to be under the wrong-headed impression that bisexuality is a "phase" or a choice undertaken by DiFranco, as opposed to a sexual orientation. For someone who has been inclusive of accurate lesbian and gay celebrity talk in the past, it is disappointing to see Scott pack so many misconceptions about bisexuals into one gossip item.

Tell Walter Scott that he needs to reevaluate his own assumptions about bisexuality before he begins writing about it and perpetuating damaging and false stereotypes.

Contact: Walter Scott, "Personality Parade," c/o *Parade Magazine*, 711 Third Ave., New York, NY 10017. ▼

GLAAD promotes fair, accurate, and inclusive representation as a means of challenging discrimination based on sexual orientation or identity. Contact GLAAD by e-mail at glaad@glaad.org or by phone at (415) 861-2244. Report defamation in the media by calling GLAAD's Toll-Free AlertLine! 1-800-GAY-MEDIA (1-800-429-6334).

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International confab draws 900 bisexuals

by Liz Highleyman

Over nine hundred attendees participated in the fifth International Conference on Bisexuality, held April 3-5 at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Participants came from as far away as Argentina, Australia, Finland, and Japan, helping to make this the largest international bisexual gathering to date.

With the theme of "One World, Many Faces: Unity and Diversity in Bi Communities, Queer Communities and the World," the conference featured plenaries and 140 workshops covering a broad spectrum of areas of interest to bisexuals and their friends and allies.

The conference was organized by Boston's Bisexual Resource Center and the Harvard Lesbian, Bisexual, and Gay Graduate Students. Boston was an apt location, since the city has one of the most well-developed bi communities in the U.S. According to conference coordinator Wayne Bryant, "We're seeing unprecedented interest in understanding bisexuality in a serious multicultural fashion. The bisexual movement has arrived at a new level of maturity."

The conference's keynote speakers were openly bisexual Connecticut state representative Evelyn Mantilla, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Executive Director Kerry Lobel, and Oakland minister and theologian Dr. Elias Farajate-Jones.

Lobel, who has been instrumental in moving her organization toward greater inclusion of bisexual and transgender people, talked about the state of the queer liberation movement and the cultural and legislative fight against the right. "We are winning the long-term struggle," said Lobel, "but in the short-term the right will give us a run for our money, because they have to in order to survive." Lobel expressed support for autonomous bisexual and transgender organizing in addition to coalition-building. Acknowledging the challenge that bisexuals present to essentialist notions of sexual identity, Lobel encouraged us to "accept the fluidity that for many of us is our sexual expression."

Lobel's appearance reflects the organized bisexual movement's emphasis on gaining inclusion within the lesbian and gay movement. This issue has been debated within the bi community and was the subject of a panel discussion that featured Lobel and several bi leaders, including Lani Ka'ahumanu and Robyn Ochs. Moving away from the polarized views of the past, panelists agreed that there was value in autonomous bi organizing, in building coalitions with gay men and lesbians, and in working together with all who share the goal of sexual and gender liberation regardless of sexual identity.

Continuing the themes of diversity and fluidity, keynote speaker Farajate-Jones asserted that "When we say unity, we don't mean uniformity... to acknowledge our differences is not fragmentation or divisiveness." Farajate-Jones said, "I question and reinvent my sexuality every day of my life." Responding to a com-

mon charge against bisexuals, Farajate-Jones said, "Sure it's a phase — everything is a phase!"

San Diego sex researcher Fritz Klein announced the creation of a new non-profit organization, the American Institute of Bisexuality, which will promote and fund bisexual projects. Klein presented the AIB's first Global Award to conference organizer Bryant. The 1998 Renildo Jose dos Santos Memorial Award, named after a murdered Brazilian bisexual activist, was given to Alejandra Sarda, an organizer from Argentina.

Workshops galore

Conference workshops spanned a gamut of topics ranging from international networking, media activism, and organizing to spirituality, sex party hosting, and HIV/AIDS to literature, research, and theory.

Several workshops addressed issues related to gender, reflecting

both a growing tendency among many bisexuals to challenge traditionally defined gender boundaries, and a deepening alliance between the bisexual and transgender communities.

A series of panels explored the history of the bi movement from the 1960s through the 1990s, tracing the evolution from the development of bisexuality as a unique identity in the 1960s and 1970s, to the genesis of the earliest bi organizations such as San Francisco's Bisexual Center in 1976, to the first national bisexual conference and the creation of the first national bi organization (now BiNet USA) in 1990, to the first International Conference on Bisexuality in Amsterdam in 1991.

Panelists discussed the evolution of bisexual politics and the bi label. San Francisco author Naomi Tucker noted a shift from the "politics of visibility" of the

page 15 ►

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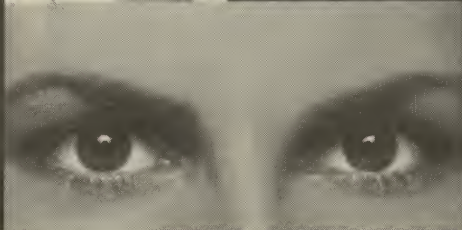
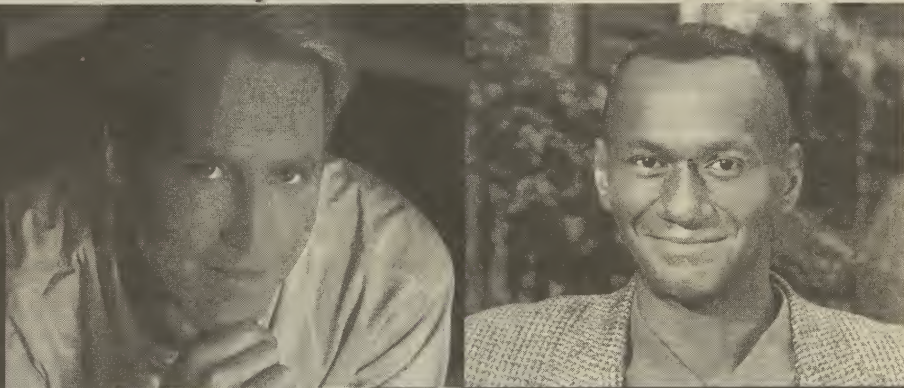
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LABORATORIES

Global pact

◀ page 1

Passage of the treaty, Holmes warned, could imperil virtually every law designed to protect people's health, safety, jobs, and civil rights, including the right of same-sex couples to equal employment benefits.

"The MAI would set strongly enforced global rules limiting governments' right and ability to regulate foreign investors and corporations," said Holmes. If enacted, he added, it would "radically limit our ability to promote so-

cial, economic, and environmental justice. In other words, it puts our democracy at risk."

Holmes pointed to the city's domestic partners law as one "investment barrier" that could come crumbling down once the MAI is in place.

"This is an attempt by transnational corporations to codify rules protecting investors, who then do not have to account to any government," Holmes said. "With respect to equal benefits, it would give airlines that much more leverage." He was referring to the fight by several airlines doing business in San Francisco to be exempted from the city's domestic partner ordinance.

(See story, front page.)

According to a booklet published by an anti-MAI coalition of pro-democracy, environmental, labor, and social-justice groups, and presented to the committee by Holmes, "The MAI is the final pillar of a system designed to promote unregulated economic globalization, where values of the marketplace have precedence over values of social and economic justice."

Deputy City Attorney Christiane Hayashi, asked by the committee to present a balanced legal analysis of the MAI, said she tried to be neutral in her assessment, but nonetheless found "a lot to be alarmed by."

MAI-tied

Hayashi said the MAI in some ways resembles the North American Free Trade Agreement, which strips away most trade barriers between nations. But unlike NAFTA, which affects national laws, the MAI applies to state and local laws as well. Moreover, the MAI would disallow any of the exceptions contained in NAFTA.

In other words, the MAI would

undermine virtually any law, at any level of government, in any locality or region, that serves to protect the environment, maintain public health, secure gender parity in the workplace, or promote equal benefits for gay and lesbian partners.

"The city would have no standing to defend its domestic partners legislation if the dispute goes to an international tribunal," Hayashi observed. At that point, the State Department would become involved in the matter.

Supervisor Ammiano, in response to these concerns, introduced a resolution urging the city's state and federally elected officials and lobbyists to actively protest any MAI provision "that would restrict San Francisco's ability to regulate within its jurisdiction."

The committee approved the resolution unanimously, sending it to the full board for a vote this Monday, April 20.

When contacted later by the B.A.R., Ammiano declined to speculate on whether the full board would adopt his resolution,

thereby pitting the city against powerful transnational interests.

Ammiano was quick to say the treaty would have a negative effect on every working San Franciscan, but gays and lesbians could be among the first to feel its effects.

"In general, the MAI affects all non-discrimination laws in and around hiring," Ammiano said. "An entity that didn't want to hire gay people could use MAI as an out. Any gay or lesbian who works would be affected, because of the impact on safety and health. Small businesses could be hurt, because they'd be put at an economic disadvantage by transnational corporations."

"Economic globalization creates a climate that's very precarious for people," Holmes told the B.A.R. "Domestic partners is the nexus, because it's an ordinance the city puts on businesses. Working queers, women, and people of color could be affected in a lot of ways, because if the corporations get these rules in place, they can say they don't have to pay prevailing wages, or do business with women-owned or queer-owned businesses. It takes away the only tools governments have to benefit people." ▼

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INDICATIONS AND USAGE

Marinol (dronabinol) is indicated for the treatment of:

1. anorexia associated with weight loss in patients with AIDS; and

2. nausea and vomiting associated with cancer chemotherapy in patients who have failed to respond adequately to conventional antiemetic treatments.

CONTRAINDICATIONS

Marinol (dronabinol) is contraindicated in any patient who has a history of hypersensitivity to any cannabinoid or sesame oil.

WARNINGS

Marinol (dronabinol) is a medication with a potential for abuse. Physicians and pharmacists should use the same care in prescribing and accounting for Marinol as they would with morphine or other drugs controlled under Schedule II (CII) of the Controlled Substances Act. Because of the risk of diversion, it is recommended that prescriptions be limited to the amount necessary for the period between clinic visits.

Patients receiving treatment with Marinol should be specifically warned not to drive, operate machinery, or engage in any hazardous activity until it is established that they are able to tolerate the drug and to perform such tasks safely.

PRECAUTIONS

General: The risk/benefit ratio of Marinol (dronabinol) use should be carefully evaluated in patients with the following medical conditions because of individual variation in response and tolerance to the effects of Marinol.

Marinol should be used with caution in patients with cardiac disorders because of occasional hypotension, possible hypertension, syncope, or tachycardia (see CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY).

Marinol should be used with caution in patients with a history of substance abuse, including alcohol abuse or dependence, because they may be more prone to abuse Marinol as well. Multiple substance abuse is common and marijuana, which contains the same active compound, is a frequently abused substance.

Marinol should be used with caution and careful psychiatric monitoring in patients with mania, depression, or schizophrenia because Marinol may exacerbate these illnesses.

Marinol should be used with caution in patients receiving concomitant therapy with sedatives, hypnotics or other psychoactive drugs because of the potential for additive or synergistic CNS effects.

Marinol should be used with caution in pregnant patients, nursing mothers, or pediatric patients because it has not been studied in these patient populations.

Marinol should be used with caution for treatment of anorexia and weight loss in elderly patients with AIDS because they may be more sensitive to the psychoactive effects and because its use in these patients has not been studied.

Information for Patients: Patients receiving treatment with Marinol (dronabinol) should be alerted to the potential for additive central nervous system depression if Marinol is used concomitantly with alcohol or other CNS depressants such as benzodiazepines and barbiturates.

Patients receiving treatment with Marinol should be specifically warned not to drive, operate machinery, or engage in any hazardous activity until it is established that they are able to tolerate the drug and to perform such tasks safely.

Patients using Marinol should be advised of possible changes in mood and other adverse behavioral effects of the drug so as to avoid panic in the event of such manifestations. Patients should remain under the supervision of a responsible adult during initial use of Marinol and following dosage adjustments.

Drug Interactions: In studies involving patients with AIDS and cancer, Marinol (dronabinol) has been co-administered with a variety of medications (e.g., cytotoxic agents, anti-infective agents, sedatives, or opioid analgesics) without resulting in any clinically significant drug-drug interactions. Although no drug-drug interactions were discovered during the clinical trials of Marinol, cannabinoids may interact with other medications through metabolic and pharmacodynamic mechanisms. Dronabinol is highly protein bound to plasma proteins, and therefore, might displace other protein-bound drugs. Although this displacement has not been confirmed in vivo, practitioners should monitor patients for a change in dosage requirements when administering dronabinol to patients receiving other highly protein-bound drugs. Published reports of drug-drug interactions involving cannabinoids are summarized in the following table.

Concomitant Drug

CLINICAL EFFECT(S)

Amphetamines, cocaine, other sympathomimetic agents

Additive hypertension, tachycardia, possibly cardiotoxicity

Atropine, scopolamine, anticholinergics, other anticholinergic agents

Additive or super-additive tachycardia, drowsiness

Amiloridine, amoxapine, desipramine, other tricyclic antidepressants

Additive tachycardia, hypertension, drowsiness

Barbiturates, benzodiazepines, ethanol, lithium, opioids, bupropion, anticholinergics, muscle relaxants, other CNS depressants

Additive drowsiness and CNS depression

Disulfiram

A reversible hypotensive reaction was reported in a 28 yr old man who smoked marijuana; confirmed by dechallenge and rechallenge

Fluoxetine

A 21 yr old female with depression and bulimia receiving 20 mg/day fluoxetine 4.4 hrs became hypotensive after smoking marijuana; symptoms resolved after 4 days

Antipyrine, barbiturates

Decreased clearance of these agents, presumably via competitive inhibition of metabolism

Theophylline

Increased theophylline metabolism reported with smoking of marijuana; effect similar to that following smoking tobacco

Cardiogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility: Cardiogenesis studies have not been performed with dronabinol. Mutagenicity testing of dronabinol was negative in an Ames test. In a long-term study (77 days) in rats, oral administration of dronabinol at doses of 30 to 150 mg/m², equivalent to 0.3 to 1.5 times maximum recommended human dose (MRHD) of 90 mg/m²/day in cancer patients or 2 to 10 times MRHD of 15 mg/m²/day in AIDS patients, reduced ventral prostate, ventral epididymal weights and caused a decrease in seminal fluid volume. Decreases in spermatogenesis, number of developing germ cells, and number of Leydig cells in the testes were also observed. However, sperm count, mating success and testosterone levels were not affected. The significance of these animal findings in humans is not known.

Pregnancy: Pregnancy Category C: Reproduction studies with dronabinol have been performed in mice at 15 to 450 mg/m², equivalent to 0.2 to 5 times maximum recommended human dose (MRHD) of 90 mg/m²/day in cancer patients or 1 to 30 times MRHD of 15 mg/m²/day in AIDS patients, and in rats at 74 to 250 mg/m² (equivalent to 0.8 to 3 times MRHD of 90 mg/m²/day in cancer patients or 5 to 20 times MRHD of 15 mg/m²/day in AIDS patients). These studies have revealed no evidence of teratogenicity due to dronabinol. At these dosages in mice and rats, dronabinol decreased maternal weight gain and number of viable pups and increased fetal mortality and early resorptions. Such effects were dose dependent and less apparent at lower doses, which produced less maternal toxicity. There are no adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women. Dronabinol should be used only if the potential benefit justifies the potential risk to the fetus.

Nursing Mothers: Use of Marinol is not recommended in nursing mothers since, in addition to the secretion of HIV virus in breast milk, dronabinol is concentrated in and secreted in human breast milk and is absorbed by the nursing baby.

ADVERSE REACTIONS

Adverse experiences information summarized in the tables below was derived from well-controlled clinical trials conducted in the US and US territories involving 474 patients exposed to Marinol (dronabinol). Studies of AIDS-related weight loss involved 157 patients receiving dronabinol at a dose of 2.5 mg twice daily and 57 receiving placebo. Studies of different durations were combined by considering the first occurrence of events during the first 28 days. Studies of nausea and vomiting related to cancer chemotherapy included 317 patients receiving dronabinol and 68 receiving placebo.

A cannabinoid dose-related "high" (easy laughing, elation and heightened awareness) has been reported by patients receiving Marinol in both the antiemetic (24%) and the lower dose appetite stimulant clinical trials (8%) (see CLINICAL TRIALS).

The most frequently reported adverse experiences in patients with AIDS during placebo-controlled clinical trials involved the CNS and were reported by 33% of patients receiving Marinol. About 25% of patients reported a minor CNS adverse event during the first 2 weeks and about 4% reported such an event each week for the next 6 weeks thereafter.

PROBABLY CAUSALLY RELATED: Incidence greater than 1%.

Rates derived from clinical trials in AIDS-related anorexia (N=157) and chemotherapy-related nausea (N=317). Rates were generally higher in the anti-emetic use (given in parentheses).

Body as a whole: Asthenia

Cardiovascular: Palpitations, tachycardia, vasodilation/facial flush

Digestive: Abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting

Nervous system: (Anxiety, anorexia, irritability, confusion, disorientation, dizziness, euphoria, hallucinations, paranoid reaction, somnolence, thinking abnormal)

"Incidence of events 3% to 10%."

PROBABLY CAUSALLY RELATED: Incidence less than 1%.

Event rates derived from clinical trials in AIDS-related anorexia (N=157) and chemotherapy-related nausea (N=317).

Cardiovascular: Conjunctivitis, hypotension

Digestive: Diarrhea, fecal incontinence

Musculoskeletal: Myalgias

Nervous system: Depression, nightmares, speech difficulties, linitis

Skin and Appendages: Flushing

Special senses: Vision difficulties

"Incidence of events 0.3% to 1%."

CAUSAL RELATIONSHIP UNKNOWN: Incidence less than 1%.

The clinical significance of the association of these events with Marinol treatment is unknown, but they are reported as alerting information for the clinician.

Body as a whole: Chills, headache, emalase

Digestive: Anorexia, hepatic enzyme elevation

Respiratory: Cough, rhinitis, sinusitis

Skin and Appendages: Sweating

DRUG ABUSE AND DEPENDENCE

Marinol (dronabinol) is one of the psychoactive compounds present in cannabis, and is an abuseable and controlled Schedule II (CII) under the Controlled Substances Act. Both psychological and physiological dependence have been noted in healthy individuals receiving dronabinol, but addiction is uncommon and has only been seen after prolonged high dose administration.

Chronic abuse of cannabis has been associated with decrements in motivation, cognition, judgment, and perception. The history of these impairments is unknown, but may be associated with the complex process of addiction rather than an isolated effect of the drug. No such decrements in psychological, social or neurological status have been associated with the administration of Marinol for therapeutic purposes.

In an open-label study in patients with AIDS who received Marinol for up to 16 months, no abuse, diversion or systematic change in personality or social functioning were observed despite the inclusion of a substantial number of patients with a past history of drug abuse.

An abstinence syndrome has been reported after the abrupt discontinuation of dronabinol in volunteers receiving doses of 210 mg/day for 12 to 16 consecutive days. Within 12 hours after discontinuation, these volunteers manifested symptoms such as irritability, insomnia, and restlessness. By approximately 24 hours post-drug discontinuation, withdrawal symptoms intensified to include "hot flashes", sweating, rhinorrhea, loose stools, hiccups and anorexia.

These withdrawal symptoms gradually subsided over the next 48 hours. Electroencephalographic changes consistent with the effects of drug withdrawal (hyperexcitability) were recorded in patients after abrupt discontinuation. Signs also comprised of disturbed sleep for several weeks after discontinuing therapy with high dosages of dronabinol.

OVERDOSEAGE

Signs and symptoms following MILD Marinol (dronabinol) intoxication include drowsiness, euphoria, heightened sensory awareness, altered time perception, reddened conjunctiva, dry mouth and tachycardia; following MODERATE intoxication include memory impairment, depersonalization, mood alteration, urinary retention, and reduced bowel motility; and following SEVERE intoxication include decreased motor coordination, lethargy, slurred speech, and postural instability. Adverse patients may experience panic reactions and seizures may occur in patients with existing severe depression.

The estimated lethal human dose of intravenous dronabinol is 30 mg/kg (2100 mg/70 kg). Significant CNS symptoms in anesthetic studies followed oral doses of 0.4 mg/kg (28 mg/70 kg) of Marinol.

Management: A potentially serious oral ingestion, if recent, should be managed with gut decontamination. In unconscious patients with a secure airway, instill activated charcoal (30 to 100 g in adults, 1 to 2 g/kg in infants) via a nasogastric tube. A saline cathartic or sorbitol may be added to the first dose of activated charcoal. Patients experiencing depressive, hallucinatory or psychotic reactions should be placed in a quiet area and offered reassurance. Benzodiazepines (5 to 10 mg diazepam po) may be used for treatment of extreme agitation. Hypotension usually responds to Trendelenburg position and IV fluids. Pressors are rarely required.

DOSEAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

Appetite stimulation: Initially, 2.5 mg Marinol (dronabinol) should be administered orally twice daily (b.i.d.), before lunch and supper. For patients unable to tolerate this 5 mg/day dosage of Marinol, the dose can be reduced to 2.5 mg/day, administered as a single dose in the evening or at bedtime. If clinically indicated and in the absence of significant adverse effects, the dosage may be gradually increased to a maximum of 20 mg/day Marinol, administered in divided oral doses. Caution should be exercised in escalating the dosage of Marinol because of the increased frequency of dose-related adverse experiences at higher dosages (see PRECAUTIONS).

Antiemetic: Marinol is best administered at an initial dose of 5 mg/m², given 1 to 3 hours prior to the administration of chemotherapy, then every 2 to 4 hours after chemotherapy is given, for a total of 4 to 6 doses/day. Should the 5 mg/m² dose prove to be ineffective, and in the absence of significant side effects, the dose may be escalated by 2.5 mg/m² increments to a maximum of 15 mg/m² per dose. Caution should be exercised in dose escalation, however, as the incidence of disturbing psychiatric symptoms increases significantly at maximum dose (see PRECAUTIONS).

SAFETY AND HANDLING

Marinol (dronabinol) should be packaged in a well-closed container and stored in a cool environment between 8° and 15° C (46° and 59° F). Protect from freezing. No particular hazard to health care workers handling the capsules has been identified.

Access to abusive drugs such as Marinol presents an occupational hazard for addiction in the health care industry. Routine procedures for handling controlled substances developed to protect the public may not be adequate to protect health care workers. Implementation of more effective accounting procedures and measures to appropriately restrict access to drugs of this class may minimize the risk of self-administration by health care providers.

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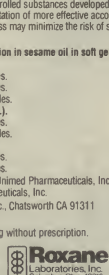
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Revised June 1996

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For more information on MAI and its impact on San Francisco and other cities, contact Henry Holmes at Sustainable Alternatives to a Global Economy, c/o Earth Island Institute, 300 Broadway, Suite 28, San Francisco, CA 94133-3312; phone (415) 788-3666; e-mail: hholmes@igc.org. For an in-depth analysis of MAI on the Web, visit the Public Citizen's Global Trade Watch site at <http://www.citizen.org/pctrade/mai.html>.

Perot cuts gay benefits

United Press International

Billionsaire and former presidential candidate Ross Perot says newly hired gay and lesbian employees of his Dallas company will no longer be able to get health insurance coverage for their partners.

In the April 10 edition of *The Dallas Morning News*, Perot said he is ending the policy started in 1996 because it's unfair to other single employees whose housemates are ineligible and to include all of them would be too expensive.

Perot told *The News*, "I felt we either had to do it for everybody or we shouldn't do it. Doing it for everybody would be too expensive."

Perot Systems in 1996 became the first large Dallas company to offer the domestic partner benefits. The Human Rights Campaign says it appears his company is the first in the nation to rescind them.

Kim Mills, education director for the Washington, DC group, says, "Ross Perot has shown himself to be completely out of step with American business — especially the information technology business." She calls the action "unnecessary and mean-spirited."

Perot told *The News* that he is not biased against gays and lesbians. He said, "If you go through my whole career, we never, ever have discriminated against people because they happen to be gay. That's not the issue."

Gays and lesbians who worked for Perot Systems under the old policy will still be able to get the benefits for their partners. ▼

COMMUNITY NEWS

Law upheld

◀ page 1

case of SFO, Wilken ruled that "due to the city's monopoly position as an airport proprietor," the Employee Retirement and Income Security Act (ERISA), a 1974 federal law regulating benefits, preempts San Francisco from requiring airlines to offer health and pension benefits.

Wilken's ruling allows the city to require the airlines to offer non-health benefits, such as bereavement and family leave, travel benefits, health club memberships, and moving expenses. To avoid providing these benefits, the airlines must prove that offering them is so burdensome it would prevent them from flying into and out of SFO.

'People can change the world'

Supervisor Tom Ammiano, an original sponsor of the bill that was drafted and presented to him by gay activists Jeff Sheehy, Geoff Kors, and Carol Stuart in mid-1996, was elated last Friday. "I'm as happy as a pig in a poke. It's truly, truly groundbreaking," said Ammiano. "The law was left standing." He called the decision "long overdue and well deserved" for the community, and while the ordinance wasn't perfect, he was glad the city stuck to its guns and defended the ATA lawsuit.

"I'm really proud we got this resolved through all the negative editorials in the straight press and being beaten up by United," Kors told the B.A.R. "Once again it shows that a small group of committed people can change the world."

Katz praised Wilken for issuing a "brilliantly written and thought out decision." She said that except for the airlines, the ordinance applies fully to every other city con-

tract.

"It's nothing short of historical," Katz told the B.A.R.

Sheehy said, "This is the first time the courts have recognized that the people we love matter."

Aftergut said two other lawsuits against the ordinance have been filed by companies represented by evangelist Pat Robertson's conservative American Center for Law and Justice (ACLJ). One of those companies, Oakland-based PM&M Electric, Inc., reported earnings of only \$888 for 1996 and the other firm, Ohio-based S.D. Myers, Inc., was founded on "Christian Biblical principles."

Both cases have been in abeyance pending the outcome of the ATA lawsuit, said Marc Slavin, deputy city attorney. He added that they expect the lawsuits to move forward, and predicted the PM&M suit would be dismissed because the company has no legal standing. The case most likely to be litigated would be the one involving SD Myers, Slavin explained.

In her ruling, Wilken noted the city's work in fighting discrimination, "San Francisco has a long history of taking a principled stand against discrimination and of being in the forefront of efforts to ban discrimination based on sexual orientation. ... Thus, the ordinance effectuates a legitimate local public interest to combat discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation."

Wilken ruled that San Francisco can require companies to provide benefits to employees who work in the city, on property owned by the city located outside the city limits, such as the airport, and located throughout the United States if their work relates to contracts with the city. The city cannot require equal benefits where the worker is outside the city and the work is unrelated to

city contracts.

Sheehy praised Mayor Willie Brown for also sticking with the ordinance from the beginning. "The community owes the mayor a debt of gratitude for his ardent support of this historic legislation," said Sheehy. "Now, the challenge is to our brothers and sisters [in other cities] to pass similar legislation so we get complete coverage."

Added Stuart, "In a sense the exercise was really important for us. The law was sound." ▼

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Bisexual confab

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1980s to the post-identity politics of the 1990s. Activist Tim Turner noted that many young people with attractions to both men and women reject the bisexual label as too confining, and instead prefer labels such as "pansexual" — or no labels at all.

In contrast to some past bi gatherings, there was less emphasis on the rift between bisexual women and lesbians, which was a contentious issue among queer women in the 1980s. Nevertheless, the problem of conflicting self-identities remains salient for many bi women, as exemplified by a workshop entitled "What's A Nice Dyke Like Me Doing In A Relationship With A Man?"

Several workshops were devoted to polyamory, S/M, and alternative sexuality. These issues have been important within the bi movement in recent years, and there are large areas of overlap between the bi community and various alternative sexuality communities. Some bisexuals have tried to gain greater acceptance by debunking stereotypes of bisexuals as promiscuous and hypersexual, while others celebrate non-traditional sexual and relationship options and resist assimilation into either the gay/lesbian community or the heterosexual mainstream.

In addition to plenaries and workshops, the conference also featured entertainers, including experts Carol Queen, Cecilia Tan, Tristan Taormino and Kim Airs, and singer/songwriter Tom Robinson. Robinson, long known as a gay artist, was the subject of controversy within the gay community when British tabloids re-

ported in 1988 that he was in a relationship with a woman.

The next International Conference on Bisexuality will take place in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, in 2000. The 2002 conference will take place in Sydney, Australia, in conjunction with the Gay Games. Regional conferences are planned for odd-numbered years. ▼

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Latino AIDS orgs

◀ page 1

HIV prevention organizations serving minority communities; to address the need for adequate annual contracts for Latino AIDS prevention programs in a culturally specific manner; and, ultimately, to build an AIDS coalition that can address the various public health concerns of the population throughout the city.

Although CDC funding for HIV/AIDS overall has been on the increase over the last few years, CDC spokesman Kent Taylor in Atlanta confirmed that, while "the 1999 budget is still pending congressional approval, the annual budget proposal does show some decrease from the 1998 appropriation level.

That news is worrying to AIDS prevention experts like El Ambiente Acting Project Coordinator Erick Arguello, who has already seen the group's budget shrinking, but Taylor was sanguine about the decrease.

"This is normal, however in all of our programs; year to year you have some shifting of funds, sometimes they [the funds] come into the program in a different way," he said. "This is a year-to-year process, but the line item for HIV/AIDS does show a decrease of about \$2.5 million overall in the budget submitted to Congress for 1999."

Arguello told the B.A.R. that in light of the reduction, "What's really important is to obtain appropriate funding and to create a coalition that will enable us to be a part of the process, when the funds are distributed."

El Ambiente is one of the strongest prevention programs within the Latino community. The primary focus to the program is to provide AIDS prevention and education workshops to gay and bisexual Latino men, who continue to show disproportionately high levels of HIV transmission through high risk sexual behavior, substance abuse, and needle sharing. In June 1994, El Ambiente acquired a contract under the San Francisco AIDS Office for an estimated \$80,000 per year, which has been reduced to almost 50 percent for annual operating expenses since then.

"This has effected our recruiting efforts," Arguello told the B.A.R. "It's getting harder for us to reach the people we want to target. We've cut our activities down to four orientation workshops per year from two orientation workshops each month. We've been successful focusing on high risk behavior relapse prevention through self-empowerment, and it's important to keep the members involved on a consistent basis. Our services are down to no advertising. We've been reaching people through word of mouth and referrals from the other HIV programs."

Different issues and groups

Arguello stressed that people outside of the Latino community often don't understand the various differences in language and culture that exists within the community from country to country origins and from generation to generational experience living in the United States.

Arguello expressed to the B.A.R. that, "The issues are very different from group to group. The four programs that exist are focused on different cultural aspects within the Latino community. Most of our clients are college educated, second and third generation Latinos who are bilingual and bicultural. The recent immigrants, who are gay or bisexual that come into our workshops with their families are not always

comfortable with the language being conducted back and forth through translators in English and Spanish. We usually refer them to the Mission Neighborhood Health Center. The center conducts a program very similar in Spanish only — called *Hermanos De Luna y Sol*."

El Instituto Familiar de la Raza facilitates programs that deal specifically with transgender issues, recent immigrants, and people below the poverty line; and Proyecto Contra Sida Por Vida offers services to gay and bisexual Latinos under 21, who have very little support and no place to turn to, in the Castro or in the Mission Areas of the city.

Because NTFAP recently decided to cease operating its local programs, Proyecto will soon be run under the auspices of another agency. Norm Nickens with the Department of Public Health (DPH) has been working on the negotiations, and told the B.A.R. this week that Mobilization Against AIDS (MAA) will probably assume the role of fiscal agent for Proyecto effective this Friday, April 17.

Although the El Ambiente program has been well received and is very popular, the differences in sexual orientation identification within the various Latino groups con-

tinues to be a challenge for HIV prevention and public health education providers. Still, as research continues to be geared towards the Latino gay and bisexual male community, the results continue to reveal that the young male population levels of high risk activity is extremely high in proportion to the population, and that Latin American perspectives on homosexuality and same-sex behavioral practices is complex and diverse across nationalities and ethnicities.

Historical perspective

Several research studies compiled by San Francisco sociologist Stephen O. Murray have shown Latino gay and bisexual males have the highest rate of high risk behavior such as unprotected anal intercourse. "Family Planning Perspectives" (Forrest, K. A., D. M. Austin, M. I. Valdes, E. G. Fuentes, and S. R. Wilson, 1993), a study that explored the norms and beliefs related to HIV prevention among California Latino men, facilitated a predominantly working-class sample of 75 California Latino men ages 18-40. The men were involved in seven focus groups, each with 10 to 12 participants. They discussed ethnic factors that might enhance or interfere with AIDS prevention efforts.

Resources:

For more info on gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender Latino HIV prevention programs, call:

Proyecto Contra Sida Por Vida: 864-7278

El Instituto Familiar de la Raza: 647-4141

El Ambiente: 558-8403

Mission Neighborhood Health Center: 552-3870

There were three groups composed of single men, three of married men, and one of gay and bisexual men. Four groups included only participants born outside the United States, and Spanish was the preferred language in five of the overall groups.

Evaluation of the discussions indicated that although AIDS awareness is high among this population, condom use is sporadic. Few participants knew that someone infected with HIV could appear healthy, and many participants thought that casual contact could transmit HIV. The gay and bisexual men were more likely to acknowledge that they were at some risk of infection. Most of the

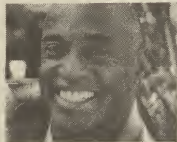
heterosexual men did not perceive themselves as being at risk and they had ambivalent attitudes towards women who suggested condom use and were often reluctant to initiate condom use themselves.

In a more recent study in 1994, "Seroprevalence of HIV and risk behaviors among young homosexual and bisexual men: The San Francisco/Berkeley Young Men's Survey" published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, a survey of 425 homosexual and bisexual men ages 17-22 were recruited from 26 locations during 1992-93. Forty percent of the 95 Latinos had engaged in unprotected anal sex in the six months prior to the interview (compared to 28 percent of Anglos, 38.5 percent of African-Americans, and 27 percent of Asian American). Out of the 425 who participated survey, 18 percent did not know that they were HIV-seropositive.

Representatives from the city requested proposals from the various programs for further contract budget considerations. According to sources, the issues from the community forum will be brought to the attention of the Mayors office and the city's Supervisors for a vote during roll call. Final decisions on funding will be made as early as June. ▼



More than 70% of
Viramune-treated
patients
achieved
undetectable
viral loads
with triple-
combination
therapy



Jeremiah Tower withdraws from SFAF award, cites '93 lawsuit

Jury found celebrity chef fired worker due to AIDS

by Cynthia Laird

Famed restaurateur Jeremiah Tower has withdrawn from the San Francisco AIDS Foundation's (SFAF) upcoming awards dinner, where he was to be recognized with the organization's community service award. Tower's decision came one day after the *Bay Area Reporter* contacted SFAF to inquire why it was bestowing the award on Tower, a Bay Area chef who was found guilty several years ago of discriminating against an employee with AIDS at his trendy restaurant Stars.

SFAF, which calls Tower an "AIDS Warrior" in an April newsletter story about the dinner that was distributed before his decision to bow out, will not replace

him and will now only recognize attorney Vic Schachter and American Airlines at its 11th annual Leadership Dinner on Thursday, May 7, said Communications Director Derek Gordon.

Reached Monday, April 13,

illness would drive up healthcare costs for all Stars employees. A jury found Tower discriminated against the dying waiter but awarded him only \$30,000 following a two-week trial.

The next day, Gordon told the

"The personal is political. We all have to examine what we are doing on a personal level, our personal politics."

— Larry Brinkin

Gordon expressed shock at learning of the 1993 court case that was brought by Walter Rolando Iglesias, who claimed Tower fired him in 1991 because he suffered from AIDS and Tower feared the fatal

B.A.R. that Tower had informed SFAF Executive Director Pat Christen, through a confidential letter, that he was withdrawing from the event. "He's regretted it [the 1993 court case] for years

and didn't want this to reflect badly on the foundation," said Gordon, who called the whole situation "very regrettable."

The personal is political

Larry Brinkin, with the city's Human Rights Commission (HRC), told the B.A.R. that Iglesias, the plaintiff in the lawsuit, initially came to the HRC with his complaint following his termination from Stars. Because of that, Brinkin declined to discuss specifics of the case, but he did offer some personal views on the situation.

"The personal is political," Brinkin said. "We all have to examine what we are doing on a personal level, our personal politics. As an activist, it's important to me to look at both things."

Tower was unavailable to comment on his withdrawal from the SFAF dinner, and Gordon said that the chef would not release a copy of the letter he sent to Christen.

Gordon said that apparently no one involved in the nominating process was aware of the court case five years ago against Tower, who is gay. Gordon did say that Tower has done "tons of good works," both for the foundation as well as numerous other events in the gay community and elsewhere. "He's lent Stars to fundraisers," said Gordon. The nominations for honorees at the Leadership Dinner — one of SFAF's biggest fundraisers — are forwarded to the board of directors from the development department, and are based on extraordinary things a person has done, presumably in the fight against HIV/AIDS. The 1997 "Ends Statement" of the foundation is, "To end the HIV pandemic and the human suffering caused by AIDS."

Not everyone in the community has such short memories. Gay stand-up comic Danny Williams said the foundation's selection of Tower reminded him of SFAF's decision a couple of years ago to have the Salvation Army cater its Thanksgiving dinner. The Salvation Army is known for its homophobic stance. "It shows how out of touch they are with the community," Williams said.

Steve Schectman, who was Iglesias's attorney in the court



Jeremiah Tower.

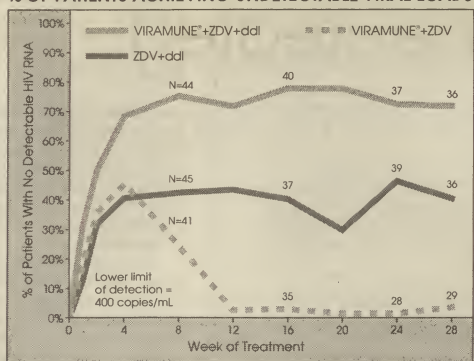
case, told the B.A.R. that Tower was "incredible on the stand," during the November 1993 trial and testified he knew nothing about AIDS despite evidence to the contrary. "He didn't want it perceived that he had people living with AIDS at his restaurant. The jury found that the determining factor in firing Walter Iglesias was that he had AIDS," said Schectman.

According to an account in the *San Francisco Examiner*, Tower attended court every day of the trial and "appeared flushed at hearing the verdicts ... and stormed out of the courtroom when the clerk finished reading them." Members of the jury who were quoted in the story said they did not believe Tower's testimony and expressed amazement at his professed ignorance about AIDS or about the fact that one of his most popular employees was suffering from it. The foreman said the jury found it inconceivable that Tower didn't know there were a good number of gays working for him or that several suffered from AIDS.

Tower testified that the real reason for the firing was that Iglesias had refused to serve a party of seven a cappuccino soufflé, one of the restaurant's more popular desserts, so he could leave early. ▼

- VIRAMUNE® plus two nucleosides (ZDV+ddI) significantly increased the number of treatment-naïve patients achieving undetectable viral loads, compared to dual therapy ($P=0.017$).

% OF PATIENTS ACHIEVING UNDETECTABLE VIRAL LOADS



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- 96% of VIRAMUNE® triple therapy patients (based on a subset of 27 patients)¹ who complied with their therapy (ie, did not interrupt any of their assigned drugs for 28 or more days during the course of the trial) achieved viral levels below the limit of detection at 28 weeks.
- Convenient one-tablet, twice-daily dosing.*
- VIRAMUNE® is widely distributed to all tissues; it readily crosses the blood-brain barrier (n=6) and placenta.
- VIRAMUNE® is indicated for use in combination with nucleoside analogues for the treatment of HIV-1 infected adults who have experienced clinical and/or immunologic deterioration.
- Generally well tolerated — most commonly reported adverse events were rash, fever, nausea, and headache. **Associated with severe rash, which in some cases has been life-threatening. Discontinue when severe rash occurs.**

* Recommended dose: one 200 mg tablet q.d. for first 14 days; then one 200 mg tablet b.i.d. This lead-in period should be used because it has been found to lessen the frequency of rash.

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See Brief Summary of Prescribing Information on adjacent page.
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Mark Leno swearing in ceremony set for April 22

by Cynthia Laird

Mark Leno will be sworn in as San Francisco's newest supervisor Wednesday, April 22; the public is cordially invited to attend the ceremony and a reception afterwards. Both take place at the temporary City Hall.

Leno, 46, who is openly gay, was appointed supervisor by Mayor Willie Brown on March 31 and replaces Latina lesbian Susan Leal, who resigned from the board in January to become city treasurer.

Leno will officially become a supervisor Thursday, April 23 and is expected to attend his first board

meeting Monday, April 27, joining the city's other two queer supervisors, Tom Ammann and Leslie Katz. Leno, a small businessman who owns Budget Signs in the city, will have to run for election this November along with his soon-to-be colleagues, Supervisors Ammann, Amos Brown, Gavin Newsom, and Mabel Teng. ▼

The swearing-in ceremony begins at 4 p.m. at Herbst Theater, 401 Van Ness Avenue; the reception starts at 5 p.m. upstairs in the Green Room. For more information, contact Paul Pendergast at (415) 621-0600.



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MAX celebrates going 'over the top'

by Shan Schwartz

Now that it has 10 years under its belt and six figures of money raised (well, almost) for San Francisco's new gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender community center, Men's Associated Exchange (MAX) is throwing a bash next Saturday, April 25 to celebrate the two admirable feats.

The party will run from 8 p.m. to midnight at the Center for the Arts at Yerba Buena Gardens, at Third and Mission streets, and all proceeds will go to the new community center project. The event is the culmination of MAX's six-month fundraising drive for the center, with the goal of raising \$100,000 from its members, as well as the celebration of a landmark anniversary.

With more than 850 members, MAX is the world's largest gay men's social organization. It has

raised more than \$500,000 for Bay Area charities over its 10-year history, and has volunteered thousands of hours of community service to various programs. Stuart McFaul, MAX's director of public relations, said MAX began planning a tenth anniversary party when it realized the group could

"We're meeting, and may exceed, our community center project fundraising goals, our membership is at an all-time high, and the event itself promised to be one of the most fun parties of the year," Sneed said. Partygoers will feel as they're under the Big Top, with circus performers such as jugglers

"We're meeting our community center project fundraising goals."

have an additional accomplishment to celebrate.

"We realized it could also be the pinnacle for our fundraising effort for the community center," McFaul said. "We realized that this event could take us over the top." "Over the top" is the theme of the event, and event coordinator Rick Sneed said that was appropriate theme for many reasons.

and clowns entertaining during the social hours of the night.

A brief program around 8:45 p.m. will feature the formal presentation of MAX's \$100,000 check to community center representatives. McFaul said MAX expects Mayor Willie Brown and most or all of San Francisco's Board of Supervisors will be attending.

McFaul said the \$100,000 raised for the community center came not from bake sales or other special events, but mostly from donations made by MAX members.

"We realized we had a very big membership, and if we could get our members to each donate a good amount, we could raise a goodly sum," McFaul said. "And it worked!"

"MAX has always been recognized for having its TGIF socials," McFaul said. "But this is our opportunity to go out, really dress up, and put on the dog for once."

Dress to thrill

About a dozen Bay Area restaurants, ranging from Fuzio to the Fizz Supper Club to the California Culinary Academy, will supply food, McFaul said. Numerous area wineries are providing beverages for the night.

Dress code for the evening is "festive attire."

"It's everything from costume to tux," McFaul said. "We're just asking people to dress colorfully."

Partygoers will be treated to live entertainment provided by comedienne Sabrina Matthews, singer Christian Nova, and the a cappella drag group The Kinsey Sicks. Gail Wilson and City Swing will provide big band sounds throughout the evening.

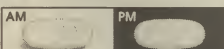
Also featured during the program will be a live auction for a 10-day, five-star Caribbean cruise for two. A silent auction throughout the night will offer other gifts donated by more than 100 Bay Area businesses, ranging from travel packages to home products to personal services, McFaul said.

Regular tickets for the event are \$60 per person until this Saturday, April 18, and \$75 thereafter until the night of the party. Slightly higher-priced tickets are available for those wishing to be designated "hosts" or "Friends of MAX." A pre-party "host reception" begins at 7 p.m. that night and will feature additional live entertainment and a private wine tasting. ▼

Tickets can be purchased at the Center for the Arts box office at 701 Mission Street or by calling (415) 978-2787. For more information on MAX and its events, call the MAX information line at (415) 442-1994 or visit the group's web page at www.maxonline.org.

200 mg Tablets
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Simple maintenance dose:
one 200 mg tablet twice daily



BRIEF SUMMARY

WARNING:
VIRAMUNE® (NEVIRAPINE) IS INDICATED FOR USE IN COMBINATION WITH NUCLEOSIDE ANALOGUES FOR THE TREATMENT OF HIV-1 INFECTED ADULTS WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED CLINICAL AND/OR IMMUNOLOGIC DETERIORATION. THIS INDICATION IS BASED ON ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN SURVIVAL ENDPOINTS IN STUDIES OF UP TO 48 WEEKS DURATION. AT PRESENT, THERE ARE NO RESULTS FROM CONTROLLED CLINICAL TRIALS EVALUATING THE EFFECT OF VIRAMUNE® WITH NUCLEOSIDE ANALOGUES ON THE CLINICAL PROGRESSION OF HIV-1 INFECTION, SUCH AS THE INCIDENCE OF OPPORTUNISTIC INFECTIONS OR SURVIVAL.

THE DURATION OF BENEFIT FROM ANTIRETROVIRAL THERAPY MAY BE LIMITED. ALTERATION OF ANTIRETROVIRAL THERAPIES SHOULD BE CONSIDERED IF DISEASE PROGRESSION OCCURS WHILE PATIENTS ARE RECEIVING VIRAMUNE®.

RESISTANT VIRUS EMERGES RAPIDLY AND UNIFORMLY WHEN VIRAMUNE® IS ADMINISTERED AS MONOTHERAPY. THEREFORE, VIRAMUNE® SHOULD ALWAYS BE ADMINISTERED IN COMBINATION WITH AT LEAST ONE ADDITIONAL ANTIRETROVIRAL AGENT.

VIRAMUNE® HAS BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH SEVERE RASH, WHICH IN SOME CASES HAVE BEEN LIFE-THREATENING. WHEN SEVERE RASH OCCURS, VIRAMUNE® MUST BE DISCONTINUED.

CONTRAINDICATIONS: VIRAMUNE® IS CONTRAINDICATED IN PATIENTS WITH CLINICALLY SIGNIFICANT HYPERSENSITIVITY TO ANY OF THE COMPONENTS CONTAINED IN THE TABLET.

WARNINGS: Severe and life-threatening skin reactions have occurred in patients treated with VIRAMUNE®, including Stevens-Johnson syndrome (SJS). VIRAMUNE® must be discontinued in patients developing a severe rash or a rash accompanied by constitutional symptoms such as fever, blistering, oral lesions, conjunctivitis, swelling, muscle or joint aches, or general malaise. (see PRECAUTIONS, Information for Patients; ADVERSE REACTIONS)

VIRAMUNE® therapy must be initiated with a 14-day lead-in period of 200 mg/day, which has been shown to reduce the frequency of rash. Dose escalation should not occur if rash is observed during this lead-in period until the rash has resolved. (see DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION)

PRECAUTIONS: General: When administering VIRAMUNE® as part of an antiretroviral treatment regimen, the complete product information for each therapeutic component should be consulted before initiation of treatment.

While nevirapine is extensively metabolized by the liver and nevirapine metabolites are extensively eliminated by the kidney, the pharmacokinetics of nevirapine have not been evaluated in patients with either hepatic or renal dysfunction. Therefore, VIRAMUNE® should be used with caution in these patient populations.

Abnormal liver function tests have been reported with VIRAMUNE®, some in the first few weeks of therapy, including cases of hepatitis. VIRAMUNE® administration should be interrupted in patients experiencing moderate or severe liver function test abnormalities until liver function tests return to baseline values. VIRAMUNE® treatment should be permanently discontinued if liver function abnormalities recur on re-administration.

Drug Interactions: Although clinical studies have not been conducted, induction of CYP3A by nevirapine may result in lower plasma concentrations of other concomitantly administered drugs that are extensively metabolized by CYP3A. (see CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY) Thus, if a patient has been stabilized on a dosage regimen for a drug metabolized by CYP3A, and begins treatment with VIRAMUNE®, dose adjustments may be necessary.

Ritampir/Ritabutin: There are insufficient data to assess whether dose adjustments are necessary when nevirapine and ritampir or ritabutin are coadministered. Therefore, these drugs should only be used in combination if clearly indicated and with careful monitoring.

Protease Inhibitors: Nevirapine may decrease plasma concentrations of protease inhibitors. Therefore, until clinical data are available that evaluate the need for dose adjustments, these drugs should not be administered concomitantly with VIRAMUNE®.

Oral Contraceptives: There are no clinical data on the effects of nevirapine on the pharmacokinetics of oral contraceptives. Nevirapine may decrease plasma concentrations of oral contraceptives (also other hormonal contraceptives); therefore, these drugs should not be administered concomitantly with VIRAMUNE®.

Information for Patients: Patients should be informed that VIRAMUNE® is not a cure for HIV-1 infection, and that they may continue to experience illnesses associated with advanced HIV-1 infection, including opportunistic infections. Treatment with VIRAMUNE® has not been shown to reduce the incidence or frequency of such illnesses, and patients should be advised to remain under the care of a physician when using VIRAMUNE®.

Patients should be informed that the long-term effects of VIRAMUNE® are unknown at this time. They should also be informed that VIRAMUNE® therapy has not been shown to reduce the risk of transmission of HIV-1 to others through sexual contact or blood contamination.

Patients should be instructed that the major toxicity of VIRAMUNE® is rash and should be advised to promptly notify their physician of any rash. The majority of rashes associated with VIRAMUNE® occur within the first 6 weeks of initiation of therapy. Therefore, patients should be monitored carefully for the appearance of rash during this period. Patients should be instructed that dose escalation is not to occur if any rash occurs during the two-week lead-in period, until the rash resolves. Any patient experiencing severe rash or a rash accompanied by constitutional symptoms such as fever, blistering, oral lesions, conjunctivitis, swelling, muscle or joint aches, or general malaise should discontinue medication and consult a physician.

Patients should be informed to take VIRAMUNE® every day as prescribed. Patients should not alter the dose without consulting their doctor. If a dose is missed, patients should take the next dose as soon as possible. However, if a dose is skipped, the patient should not double the next dose.

VIRAMUNE® may interact with some drugs; therefore, patients should be advised to report to their doctor the use of any other medications.

Patients should be instructed that oral contraceptives and other hormonal methods of birth control should not be used as a method of contraception in women taking VIRAMUNE®.

Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility: Long-term carcinogenicity studies of nevirapine in animals are currently in progress. In genetic toxicology assays, nevirapine showed no evidence of mutagenic or clastogenic activity in a battery of *in vitro* and *in vivo* assays including microbial assays for gene mutation (Ames, Salmonella strains and *E. coli*), mammalian cell gene mutation assays (CHO/HGPRT), cytogenetic assays using a Chinese hamster ovary cell line and a mouse bone marrow micronucleus assay following oral administration. In reproductive toxicology studies, evidence of impaired fertility was seen in female rats at doses providing systemic exposure, based on AUC, approximately equivalent to that provided with the recommended clinical dose of VIRAMUNE®.

Pregnancy: Pregnancy Category C: No observable teratogenicity was detected in reproductive studies performed in pregnant rats and rabbits. In rats, a significant decrease in fetal body weight occurred at doses providing systemic exposure approximately 50% higher, based on AUC, than that seen at the recommended human clinical dose. The maternal and developmental no-observable-effect level dosages in rats and rabbits provided systemic exposures approximately equivalent to or approximately 50% higher, respectively, than those seen at the recommended adult human dose, based on AUC. There are no adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women. VIRAMUNE® should be used during pregnancy only if the potential benefit justifies the potential risk to the fetus.

Nursing Mothers: Preliminary results from an ongoing pharmacokinetic study (ACTG 250) of 10 HIV-1-infected pregnant women who were administered a single oral dose of 100 or 200 mg VIRAMUNE® at a median of 5.8 hours before delivery, indicate that nevirapine readily crosses the placenta and is found in breast milk. Consistent with the recommendation by the U.S. Public Health Service Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that HIV-infected mothers not breast-feed their infants to avoid risking postnatal transmission of HIV, mothers should discontinue nursing if they are receiving VIRAMUNE®.

Pediatric Use: Safety and effectiveness of VIRAMUNE® in pediatric patients have not been established. VIRAMUNE® has been studied in two open-label, uncontrolled trials (BI 882, BI 892) in 37 HIV-1-infected pediatric patients with a median age of 9 years (range: 0.1 to 15 years) who were treated for a median duration of 20.7 months. Seven patients developed rashes while receiving VIRAMUNE®. In an ongoing controlled trial of VIRAMUNE® combination therapy in HIV-1-infected pediatric patients (ACTG 245), one of approximately 288 patients treated with VIRAMUNE® experienced Stevens-Johnson syndrome.

Because there are no data on multi-dose pharmacokinetics in children, no recommendation on dosing can be made. Based on single-dose pharmacokinetics in 9 HIV-1-infected pediatric patients (age 9 mos. to 14 years) who were administered nevirapine in a suspension formulation, it appears that oral clearance is approximately 2-fold greater in children when compared to adults.

ADVERSE REACTIONS: The most frequently reported adverse events related to VIRAMUNE® therapy were rash, fever, nausea, headache, and abnormal liver function tests.

The major clinical toxicity of VIRAMUNE® is rash, with VIRAMUNE®-attributable rash occurring in 17% of patients in combination regimens in Phase I/II controlled studies. Thirty-seven percent of patients treated with VIRAMUNE® experienced rash compared with 20% of patients treated in control groups of either ZDV+ZDV or ZDV alone (Table 1). Severe or life-threatening rash occurred in 7.6% of VIRAMUNE®-treated patients compared with 1.2% of patients treated in the control groups.

Rashes are usually mild to moderate, maculopapular erythematous cutaneous eruptions, with or without pruritus, located on the trunk, face and extremities. The majority of severe rashes occurred within the first 28 days of treatment; 25% of the patients with severe rashes required hospitalization, and one patient required surgical intervention. All patients recovered. Overall, 7% of patients discontinued VIRAMUNE® due to rash.

Table 1: Percentage of patients with rashes in controlled trials^a

	ACTG 241 ^b		BI 1037		BI 1011		COMBINED DATA	
	NVP+ZDV+ddI	ZDV+ddI	NVP+ZDV	ZDV	NVP+ZDV	ZDV	NVP	CONTROL
n	197	201	30	30	25	24	252	255
Rash events of all Grades and all causality	39.6%	23.9%	26.7%	6.7%	32.0%	4.2%	37.3%	20.0%
Grade 3 or 4 rash events, all causality	8.1%	1.5%	3.3%	0%	8.0%	0%	7.6%	1.2%

^a At recommended dose of one 200 mg tablet daily for the first 14 days followed by one 200 mg tablet twice daily

^b Trial ACTG 241 was designed to report Grade 3/4 (severe or life-threatening) events; except for several pre-specified events including rash for which all grades are reported

Table 2 lists treatment-related clinical adverse events that occurred in patients receiving VIRAMUNE® in ACTG 241 and in Trials BI 1037 and BI 1011.

Table 2: Comparative Incidence of Selected Drug-Related Events in Controlled Trials

	ACTG 241		Trials BI 1037 and BI 1011	
	NVP+ZDV+ddI	ZDV+ddI	NVP+ZDV	ZDV alone
Number of patients	197	201	55	30
Overall incidence of related adverse events	31%	22%	42%	33%
Rash	31	2	20	3
Fever	3	3	11	3
Nausea	5	3	9	3
Headache	4	3	11	0
Diarrhea	2	2	0	0
Abdominal pain	1	2	2	0
Ulcerative stomatitis	0	0	4	0
Peripheral neuropathy	0	2	0	0
Paresthesia	1	0	2	0
Myalgia	1	0	2	7
Hepatitis	1	0	4	0

Laboratory Abnormalities: Table 3 summarizes marked laboratory abnormalities occurring in three controlled studies.

Table 3: Percentage of patients with marked laboratory abnormalities

	Data combined for controlled trials ACTG 241, BI 1037 & BI 1011	
	VIRAMUNE® n=252	Control n=255
Hematology		
Decreased Hg (<8.0 g/dL)	1.2%	2.0%
Decreased platelets (<50,000/mm ³)	0.8	0.8
Decreased neutrophils (<750/mm ³)	11.1	10.2
Blood chemistry		
Increased ALT (>250 U/L)	3.4	3.5
Increased AST (>250 U/L)	2.0	2.4
Increased GGT (>450 U/L)	2.4	1.2
Increased total bilirubin (>2.5 mg/dL)	0.4	1.2

Asymptomatic elevations in GGT levels are more frequent in VIRAMUNE® recipients than in controls. Because hepatitis has occasionally been reported in VIRAMUNE®-treated patients, monitoring of liver function tests should be considered.

OVERDOSSAGE: There is no known antidote for VIRAMUNE® overdosage. No acute toxicities or sequelae were reported for one patient who ingested 800 mg of VIRAMUNE® for one day.

CAUTION: FEDERAL LAW PROHIBITS DISPENSING WITHOUT PRESCRIPTION

Reference: 1. Data on file, Roxane Laboratories, Inc.

Roxane
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CCP Board supports landmarking Fallon Building for gay center

by Cynthia Laird

The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Community Center Project (CCP) Board of Directors now supports designating the Fallon Building, the Victorian at the corner of Octavia and Market streets, as a landmark. The latest development follows the board's unanimous vote Wednesday, April 8 in support of a nine-point joint agreement that has already been endorsed by the two preservationist groups involved in negotiations to save the building.

The Friends of 1800 Market Street membership ratified the joint agreement at its meeting Monday, April 13. The other group involved in the agreement is the Foundation for San Francisco's Architectural Heritage.

The CCP board agreed that it is willing to support landmark designation for the Queen Anne Victorian that survived the 1906 earthquake, based upon an agreement with preservationists that limits the amount of restoration required for the 101-year-old building. Landmark status on a building ordinarily requires the highest levels of restoration. The CCP board had expressed concern that landmark status could once again significantly increase costs and result in lengthy time delays for construction. The board and representatives from the two preservationist groups, however, negotiated what CCP Board President Brenda Barnette called "a brilliant solution to all our needs."

The joint agreement puts the CCP on record supporting landmark status, if it is accompanied by a detailed description of the design changes that will be made to the Victorian to make its restoration both affordable and more functional. The agreement also limits jurisdiction of the city's Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board to the design of the Fallon Building, and not the new structure that will be built alongside it.

"It's crucial to the ability of

this project to proceed in a timely and cost-effective way," added Barnette.

'Continue building...'

The CCP purchased the Fallon Building and adjacent property in 1996 using \$1.1 million in city funds. Since then, more than \$40,000 has been spent in securing permits, demolishing the smaller buildings on the site, and hiring a property management company to deal with vagrants who had repeatedly broken into the Fallon Building and even had electricity and phone service turned on.

Last month the CCP board reversed an earlier decision to demolish the building after negotiations with preservationists produced a set of cost-saving measures for its restoration. Preservationists then asked the board to agree to landmark status for the building, given its visibility on Market Street, history, and architectural merit.

"It's an extremely important

and valuable agreement and reasonable expectations on the part of the board," said CCP board member Dana Van Gorder. "I'm totally in support of it."

Preservationists too, were pleased. "I think it's a slam dunk," said preservationist architect Arnold Lerner.

"This decision allows us to build a project whose cost we can justify to the city and private donors who are making it possible," said Pat Martel, CCP treasurer. "It also acknowledges that 1800 Market Street is an important architectural resource for San Francisco. The agreement permits us, at long last, to have our architects begin design work so that we can bring this important resource to life for a community that wants it and needs it."

Under the joint agreement, the goal is to present schematic designs for the exterior elevations of the Fallon Building to the full landmarks advisory board sometime in June. Another part of the

page 24 ►

Friends to host Fallon Building fundraiser

by Cynthia Laird

Preservationists and others interested in the city's unique history will be in for a treat this Saturday, April 18. That's when two groups, Friends of 1800 Market Street and the Foundation for San Francisco's Architectural Heritage, will be hosting a special evening of celebration commemorating the 92nd anniversary of the 1906 earthquake and fire and the recent decision of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Community Center Project's (CCP) board of directors to save the Fallon Building from demolition.

The wine and hors d'oeuvres and silent auction event will be held at the Haas-Lillenthal Mansion, located at 2007 Franklin Street at Washington Street. Sponsors of the event ask each person to donate \$50, to benefit the preservation and rehabilitation of the Fallon Building. Organizers said people can make a donation even if they are unable to attend. ▼

The event takes place from 5 to 8 p.m. To reserve a spot and pay at the door, call (415) 643-1236 and leave name, phone number, and number of people attending. Checks should be made payable to the Foundation for San Francisco's



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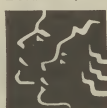
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Supervisor Leslie Katz (left) chats with (l to r) Kevin Robinson, Marvin Schwam and Gregory Hartnett of the investment banker's group Agean at Mecca April 8. The three, promoters of the Gay Entertainment Television network, were busy signing up potential investors at the posh SF eatery.

Gay cop-and-robber picks Friday the 13th as coming out day

United Press International

A gay former police officer-turned-escaped-convict from Texas, with a past that sounds like the subject of a Hollywood movie, is back in custody.

After slightly less than a month on the lam, Steven Jay Russell is cooling his heels in a Fort Lauderdale, Florida jail. Russell, who was serving a sentence for stealing \$800,000 from a Houston business, has been dubbed "King Con" and "Houdini" by authorities for slipping out of jails three times—always on Friday the 13th.

He pulled off his most recent

escape from Houston's Harris County Jail March 13 by posing as an inmate dying of AIDS.

Jail officials said Russell managed to get a "special needs" parole to a south Texas nursing home after convincing someone to call the jail to release him to a Houston hospital for treatment.

Once loose, Russell was able to get his lover, Phillip Morris, transferred from the Houston jail to a Dallas lockup—and then visited him several times under authorities' noses by posing as Morris's lawyer.

In 1996, he demonstrated his nerve by impersonating a judge, calling the district clerk's office, ordering his bond reduced from

\$900,000 to \$45,000, and walking away from the facility.

Russell is the only inmate to have escaped from Harris County Jail twice.

In past escapes, Russell has posed as an FBI agent and a physician.

Investigators from Texas and Florida tracked Russell to Sunrise, Florida, where he was arrested Tuesday, April 7 as he was getting into his car.

Authorities believe they might have a little comfort room as arrangements are made to transport Russell from Florida to Texas; the next Friday the 13th comes in November. ▼

Results in 1 week!

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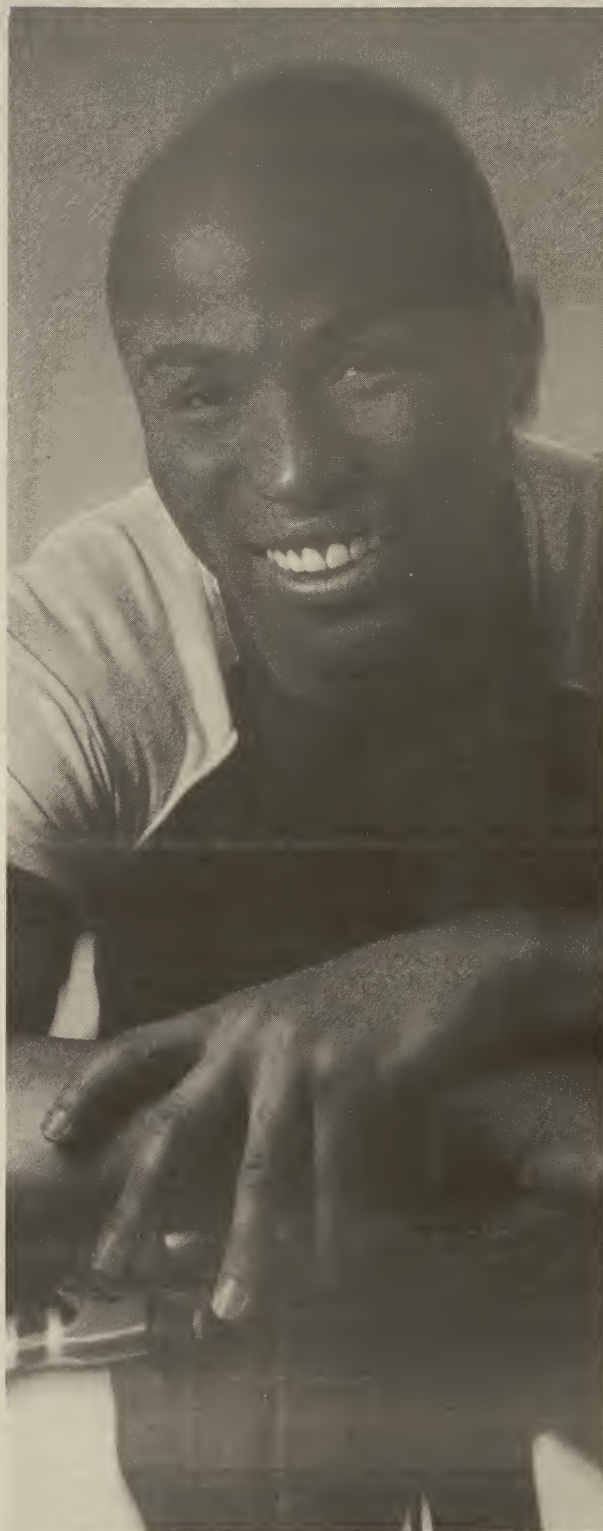
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ACT UP/GG survey: Nearly four of ten SF gay men are barebacking

Up from 24% in 1994 Stop AIDS survey

by Don Howard, ACT UP/
Golden Gate Writers Pool

Thirty-seven percent of gay men recently surveyed by ACT UP/Golden Gate report having had unprotected anal sex as a bottom or a top in the last six months. Unprotected anal sex, sometimes referred to as barebacking, is on the rise: in 1994 24 percent of gay men reported barebacking in STOP AIDS street surveys. Although there are no definitive answers to what is driving the barebacking phenomenon, one thing seems apparent from our ACT UP survey data; current

prevention programs are failing to reach everyone and many gay men are at risk.

The statistics

During March, ACT UP/Golden Gate performed an anonymous survey of 105 men who have sex with men (39 percent HIV-positive, 54 percent HIV-negative, 7 percent unsure). The survey was conducted on the street in the Castro and in two popular sex clubs (Eros and Blow Buddies) in an effort to learn more about gay

men's sex habits and attitudes about changes in the HIV epidemic. Some of the results:

- More than one in three men surveyed (37 percent) has been a top or a bottom in anal sex without a condom (barebacked) in the last six months (41 percent among those surveyed in sex clubs, 33 percent among those surveyed on the street).
- Almost half of the those who bareback are HIV-negative or did not know their HIV status (46 percent).
- More than a quarter (28 percent) of those who bareback have sex to ejaculation (nearly equal rate among both negative and positive people who bareback).
- Half of the HIV-positive men in the overall survey are not worried about reinfection with HIV.
- Of those who bareback, 30 percent report that they are having riskier sex now than a year ago (vs. 18 percent of those who do not bareback).

Other studies, similar results

Our survey results are not surprising to Dan Wohlfeiler, education director for the STOP AIDS Project, one of San Francisco's leading HIV prevention groups serving gay men. "Your numbers aren't that different from ours," says Wohlfeiler. "Ours is just a bigger sample, based on almost 22,000 surveys. Our analysis — which we did with the Department of Public Health — is literally just out of the computer and I'm glad to make it public."

"Back in 1994, 24 percent of the men our outreach volunteers spoke with reported having unprotected anal sex with two or more partners. That has steadily increased, to the point where now 33 percent report the same behavior. More worrisome: 32 percent of the guys who reported having unprotected anal sex with two or more partners did not know their partners' HIV status. So while certainly some of the unprotected sex is attributable to negotiated safety — people choosing to have sex with men of their own HIV status — these numbers show that some men are not going that route, and are having unprotected anal sex with multiple partners without finding out their partners' status."

Mitch Katz, Director of Public Health, agrees ACT UP/Golden Gate's "results are quite consistent with other studies, including the recent young men's study, that over 30 percent of men who have sex with men have had unprotected anal intercourse in the prior six months."

Is it the drugs?

Some speculate that there is more barebacking because gay men think that HIV is not as risky as it was before the introduction of protease inhibitors and other new treatment advances. Our sur-



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INDICATIONS AND USAGE

ZERIT (stavudine) is indicated for the treatment of HIV-infected patients who have received prolonged prior zidovudine therapy. The duration of clinical benefit from antiretroviral therapy may be limited. Alteration in antiretroviral therapy should be considered if disease progression occurs while receiving ZERIT.

CLINICAL STUDIES

Study A455-019 was a multi-center, randomized, double-blind trial of ZERIT Capsules vs. zidovudine for the treatment of HIV-infected adults with CD4 counts of 50 to 500 cells/mm³ who had received at least six months prior zidovudine treatment. ZERIT was administered in dosages of 40 mg BID for patients weighing ≥60 kg, and 30 mg BID for those weighing <60 kg. The zidovudine dosage was 200 mg TID. The study enrolled 822 patients with a median baseline CD4 count of 235 cells/mm³ (range, 10 to 735 cells/mm³), and a median duration of prior zidovudine treatment of 88 weeks (range 11 to 356 weeks). Fourteen percent of subjects had AIDS at baseline. 50% had HIV-related symptoms and 36% were asymptomatic. Table 1 gives the Kaplan-Meier estimates for the time to disease progression.

Table 1 — Incidence of Disease Progression

	ZERIT	zidovudine
First AIDS - Defining Event or Death*		
6 months	4.4%	5.7%
12 months	10.4%	12.4%
18 months	18.5%	23.3%
24 months	26.6%	31.8%

* Kaplan-Meier estimates; the overall difference between stavudine and zidovudine was not significant.

CONTRAINDICATIONS

ZERIT is contraindicated in patients with clinically significant hypersensitivity to stavudine or to any of the components contained in the formulation.

WARNINGS

The major clinical toxicity of ZERIT is peripheral neuropathy. This complication occurred in 18.2 and 24.4 percent of the 1174 patients with advanced HIV disease who received the two doses of stavudine in the Parallel Track Program. In patients with less advanced HIV infection in the zidovudine control group, peripheral neuropathy occurred in 13 percent of ZERIT-treated patients as compared to 4 percent of zidovudine-treated patients. Patients should be monitored for the development of neuropathy that is usually characterized by numbness, tingling, or pain in the feet or hands. Stavudine-related peripheral neuropathy may resolve if therapy is withdrawn promptly. In some cases, symptoms may worsen temporarily following discontinuation of therapy. If symptoms resolve completely, resumption of treatment may be considered at a reduced dose.

Patients with a history of peripheral neuropathy are at increased risk for the development of neuropathy. If stavudine must be administered in this clinical setting, careful monitoring is essential.

PRECAUTIONS

Information for Patients

Patients should be informed that ZERIT is not a cure for HIV infection, and that they may continue to acquire illnesses associated with HIV infection, including opportunistic infections. Patients should be advised to remain under the care of a physician when using ZERIT. Patients should be informed that the most common toxicity of ZERIT is peripheral neuropathy. Symptoms of peripheral neuropathy usually include tingling, burning, pain, or numbness in the hands or feet. Patients should be counseled that this toxicity occurs with greater frequency in patients with a history of peripheral neuropathy. They should be advised that these symptoms should be reported to their physicians and that dose changes may be necessary. They should also be cautioned about the use of other medications that may exacerbate peripheral neuropathy.

Caregivers of young children receiving ZERIT therapy should be instructed regarding detection and reporting of peripheral neuropathy. Patients should be informed that the long-term effects of ZERIT are unknown at this time. They should be advised that ZERIT therapy has not been shown to reduce the risk of transmission of HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommends that HIV-infected mothers not nurse newborn infants to reduce the risk of postnatal transmission of HIV infection.

Laboratory Tests

Mild to moderate increases in AST (SGOT) and ALT (SGPT) occurred commonly in clinical trials; these did not interfere with continued therapy. Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility: Long-term carcinogenicity studies of stavudine in animals have not been completed. Stavudine was not mutagenic in the Ames, E. coli reverse mutation, or the CHO/HGPRT mammalian cell forward gene mutation assays, with and without metabolic activation. Stavudine produced positive results in the *in vitro* human lymphocyte clastogenesis and mouse fibroblast assays, and in the *in vivo* mouse micronucleus test. In the *in vitro* assays, stavudine elevated the frequency of chromosome aberrations in human lymphocytes (concentrations of 25 to 250 µg/ml, without metabolic activation) and increased the frequency of transformed foci in mouse fibroblast cells (at concentrations of 25 to 2500 µg/ml, with and without metabolic activation).

* The parallel track program (STUDY A455-900) treated 12,551 HIV-infected patients with CD4 counts <300/mm³ who had failed, were intolerant of, or had contraindications to other therapies.

In the *in vivo* micronucleus assay, stavudine was clastogenic in bone marrow cells following oral stavudine administration to mice at dosages of 650 to 2000 mg/kg/day for 3 days.

No evidence of impaired fertility was seen in rats with exposures (based on C_{max}) up to 216 times that observed following a clinical dosage of 1 mg/kg/day. Pregnancy "Category C." Reproduction studies have been performed in rats and rabbits with exposures (based on C_{max}) up to 399 and 183 times, respectively, of that seen at a clinical dosage of 1 mg/kg/day and have revealed no evidence of teratogenicity. The incidence in fetuses of a common skeletal variation, unossified or incomplete ossification of the iliac crest, was increased in rats at 399 times human exposure, while no effect was observed at 216 times human exposure. A slight post-implantation loss was noted at 216 times the human exposure with no effect noted at approximately 135 times the human exposure. An increase in early neonatal mortality (births to 4 days of age) occurred at 399 times the human exposure, while survival of neonates was unaffected at approximately 135 times the human exposure. A study in rats showed that stavudine is transferred to the fetus through the placenta. The concentration in fetal tissue was approximately one-half the concentration in maternal plasma. There are no adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women. Because animal reproduction studies are not always predictive of human response, stavudine should be used during pregnancy only if clearly needed.

Nursing Mothers

Studies in lactating rats demonstrated that stavudine is excreted in milk. Although it is not known whether stavudine is excreted in human milk, there exists the potential for adverse effects from stavudine in nursing infants. Mothers should be instructed to discontinue nursing if they are receiving stavudine. This is consistent with the recommendation by the U.S. Public Health Service Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that HIV-infected mothers not breast-feed their infants to avoid risking postnatal transmission of HIV.

Pediatric Use

Use of stavudine in pediatric patients is supported by evidence from adequate and well-controlled studies of stavudine in adults with additional safety data in 115 pediatric patients and pharmacokinetic data in 25 of these patients. Stavudine pharmacokinetics have been evaluated in 25 HIV-infected pediatric patients (age range: 5 weeks to 15 years, weight range: 2 to 43 kg) after IV and oral administration of 0.125, 0.5, 1, and 2 mg/kg as single doses and as BID regimens. The mean ± SD absolute bioavailability was 76.9 ± 31.7% (n=20). Peak plasma concentration (C_{max}) and area under the plasma concentration-time curve (AUC) increased in proportion to dose after both single and multiple doses.

Following intravenous infusions (n=21), the mean ± SD volume of distribution was 18.5 ± 9.17 L/m². The distribution of stavudine into cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) was assessed in 8 pediatric patients after 12 weeks of multiple oral dosing. The concentration of stavudine in CSF samples ranged from 0.008 to 0.105 µg/ml, at times ranging from 2 to 3 hours post-dose (dose ranging from 0.125 to 1 mg/kg). CSF concentrations ranged from 16% to 125% (mean ± SD of 59% ± 35%) of the concentration in simultaneous plasma samples.

The terminal elimination half-life after oral or intravenous administration of stavudine was approximately one hour. The mean ± SD total body clearance after intravenous infusion was 247 ± 94 mL/min/m². The mean ± SD apparent clearance was 333 ± 87 mL/min/m². The percent of the dose excreted unchanged in the urine was 1% after oral administration.

The clearance of stavudine is related to both body surface area and body weight. When dosing according to body weight, the recommended dosage for pediatric patients weighing less than 30 kg is 2 mg/kg/day in divided doses. Pediatric patients weighing 30 kg or greater should receive the recommended adult dose.

ADVERSE REACTIONS

The major clinical toxicity of ZERIT (stavudine) is peripheral neuropathy (see "WARNINGS" section).

Adults: Peripheral neuropathy is dose related (see Table 2). Mild elevation of hepatic transaminases was also observed commonly in controlled trials.

Table 2
Peripheral Neuropathy Leading to Dose Modification

	Study A455-019		Parallel Track Program	
	ZERIT (40 mg BID) (n=412)	zidovudine (200 mg TID) (n=402)	ZERIT (40 mg BID) (n=5905)	zidovudine (200 mg TID) (n=5879)
Peripheral Neuropathy	11	3	20	17
Grade 3-4	2	1	4	2
Total	13	4	24	19

Selected adverse events that occurred in adult patients receiving ZERIT in the Phase 3 controlled comparative trial (Study A455-019) are provided in Table 3.

Table 3
Selected Clinical Adverse Events in the Phase 3 Controlled Comparative Trial*

	Study A455-019	
	ZERIT (40 mg BID) (n=412)	zidovudine (200 mg TID) (n=402)
Adverse Events		
Headache	54	49
Chills/Fever	50	51
Diarrhea	50	43
Rash	40	35
Nausea and Vomiting	39	27
Abdominal Pain	34	27
Myalgia	32	35
Insomnia	19	11
Anorexia	19	22
Allergic Reaction	9	8
Pharyngitis	8	8

* This event was reported in fewer than 1% of patients.

* Includes all clinical complaints.

* Median duration of stavudine therapy = 79 weeks; median duration of zidovudine therapy = 53 weeks.

Laboratory abnormalities reported in the Phase 3 controlled comparative trial (Study A455-019) are shown in Table 4.

Table 4
Controlled Clinical Trials: Incidence of Adult Laboratory Abnormalities*

	Study A455-019	
	ZERIT (40 mg BID) (n=412)	zidovudine (200 mg TID) (n=402)
Lab Tests (units)		
AST (SGOT) (≤5.0 x ULN) ^b	11	10
ALT (SGPT) (≤5.0 x ULN) ^b	13	11
Bilirubin (≤5.0 x ULN) ^b	2	2
Anemia (<8.0 g/dL) ^c	3	3
Neutropenia (neutrophils $<750/mm^3$) ^c	5	9
Thrombocytopenia (platelets $<50,000/mm^3$) ^c	3	3
Amylase (>1.4 x ULN) ^c	14	13

* This abnormality was reported in fewer than 1% of patients.
* Data presented for patients for whom laboratory evaluations were performed.
* Median duration of stavudine therapy = 79 weeks; median duration of zidovudine therapy = 53 weeks.
* ULN = upper limit of normal.

Pediatric Patients: Adverse reactions and serious laboratory abnormalities in pediatric patients were similar in type and frequency to those seen in adult patients.

OVERDOSSAGE

Experience with adults treated with 12 to 24 times the recommended daily dosage revealed no acute toxicity. Complications of chronic overdose include peripheral neuropathy and hepatic toxicity. It is not known whether stavudine is eliminated by peritoneal dialysis or hemodialysis.

HOW SUPPLIED

ZERIT® (stavudine) Capsules are available in the following strengths and configurations of plastic bottles with child-resistant closures:

Product Strength	Capsule Shell Color	Markings on Capsule (In Black Ink)	Capsules per Bottle	NDC No.
15 mg	Light yellow & dark red	BMS 1964 15	60	0003-1964-01
20 mg	Light brown	BMS 1965 20	60	0003-1965-01
30 mg	Light orange & dark orange	BMS 1966 30	60	0003-1966-01
40 mg	Dark orange	BMS 1967 40	60	0003-1967-01

ZERIT for Oral Solution is a dye-free, fruit flavored powder that provides 1 mg of stavudine per mL of solution upon constitution with water. Directions for solution preparation are included on the product label. ZERIT for Oral Solution is available in child-resistant containers that provide 200 mL of solution after constitution with water (NDC No. 0003-1968-01). US Patent No. 4,378,655

Storage: ZERIT Capsules should be stored in tightly closed containers at controlled room temperature, 59° to 86°F (15° to 30°C).

ZERIT for Oral Solution should be protected from excessive moisture and stored in tightly closed containers at controlled room temperature, 59° to 86°F (15° to 30°C). After constitution, store tightly closed containers of ZERIT for Oral Solution in a refrigerator, 36° to 46°F (2° to 8°C). Discard any unused portion after 30 days.

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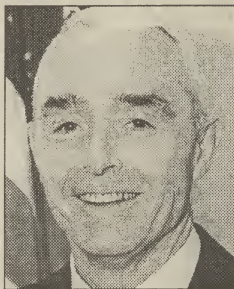
Researchers debunk needle exchange opponents' bunk

PRNewswire

The authors of the two studies most cited by critics of needle exchange programs have concluded that U.S. officials have misinterpreted the results of their studies. In a powerful opinion piece in the *New York Times* on Thursday, April 9, Drs. Julie Bruneau and Martin T. Schechter debunked claims by some major U.S. officials, including Drug Czar Barry McCaffrey, that needle exchange programs do not reduce the spread of HIV.

"As one of the authors of the Canadian studies, I must point out that some U.S. officials have misinterpreted our research," said Schechter. "Our research showed that needle exchange is a necessary but not sufficient component of HIV prevention efforts. Clean needles are only part of the solution. A comprehensive approach that includes needle exchange, healthcare, treatment for drug addiction, social support, and counseling is also needed."

Numerous studies have concluded that needle exchange programs dramatically reduce the spread of HIV and do not encourage drug use. Given the



Barry McCaffrey

strength of the evidence supporting needle exchange programs, opponents have had very little information to use as evidence against needle exchanges. Opponents have frequently cited the Canadian studies as evidence that needle exchange programs do not stem HIV infections.

Needle exchange programs are supported by the American Medical Association, the National Academy of Sciences, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the American Public Health Association as well as the American Bar Association and the U.S. Conference of Mayors. ▼

community must be careful not to scapegoat in order to come up with a reason for barebacking's popularity. As with so many sexuality issues, the reasons for barebacking are complex and no one fully understands them. The convenient, but misguided, explanation would be that 'sex is the enemy' — and such a viewpoint would spawn a whole new round of sex-negative prevention campaigns that would ultimately fail."

Tom Coates, Director of UCSF's AIDS Research Institute, agrees that prevention agencies need to address barebacking within the community. Coates says, "the agencies should be holding conversations with the community to understand better who is barebacking and why. I think that there is probably a variety of motivations behind barebacking and we don't fully understand all of them."

"It is also the case that the message is out there, and that people think it is dangerous — and that's probably why they do it. It's both dangerous and defiant, and the gay community has always enjoyed being dangerous and defiant. That's how we got to where we are now. We need to continue to be dangerous and defiant — it pushed us ahead in the battle against AIDS — but we also need to be around so that we survive and that's why barebacking concerns me. Danger and defiance are interesting, but HIV is lethal."

The SF Department of Public Health is in the planning phases of a study, directed by Dr. Susan Buchbinder and Dr. Grant Colfax, to determine how prevention messages need to change to reflect changes in treatment of HIV disease. In the meantime, other communities, notably Boston, have begun poster campaigns discussing misconceptions that the epidemic may be over. Clearly, the rise in bareback sex is one more indication that more needs to be done in our community to address the changes issues negative and positive men confront in keeping themselves healthy in the new era of HIV treatment. ▼

ACT UP

◀ previous page

vey data indicate that men who bareback seem to have somewhat more faith in the new treatments than those who do not bareback — 69 percent of the barebackers agreed (or somewhat agreed) that "HIV was no longer the death sentence it used to be" vs. 61 percent of the non-barebackers.

Others have argued that the availability of Post Exposure Prophylaxis (using anti-HIV drugs in the hours after being exposed to stay negative) is causing gay men to abandon safer sex practices. Our survey showed a slightly higher opinion or awareness of Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) among those who bareback — 24 percent of those who bareback agreed (or somewhat agreed) with the statement "there is a morning-after pill I can take for HIV" vs. 13 percent of those who do not bareback.

Have condom-centered prevention programs failed barebackers?

In our ACT UP survey, twice as many of the HIV-negative men who bareback agreed (or somewhat agreed) that they are tired of using condoms (40 percent vs. 20 percent of the HIV-negative men who did not bareback). Our survey suggests that current prevention strategies, centered around the condom code, are not relevant to the growing number of gay men who bareback: twice as many men who bareback said that current HIV prevention programs are not relevant and do not help them stay safe (37 percent for those who bareback vs. 18 percent for those who did not).

Race Bannon, a local sex activist who has worked on sex panic issues, says "I believe that the increase in barebacking is a phenomenon that is likely to continue its rise within our community and that prevention efforts must address this reality directly. While I do not personally endorse barebacking, it would be foolish to ignore its ramifications. Our

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Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. Please follow normal rules of capitalization – and no poetry. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar, and taste.

If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death.

Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

Robert Gonzalez del Valle
1946 – 1998

Robert Gonzalez del Valle died peacefully in his home in San Francisco on Sunday, March 29. He was 51. Robert will be greatly missed by those he leaves behind: his constant and loving companion, Rufus; his dear friends of many years; and his family.

For 13 years following an AIDS diagnosis, Robert continued to lead a full and productive life. A man of many skills and interests throughout his life, he was a fine cook, potter, fisherman, opera buff, photographer and art collector. He was an active member of the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus, a San Francisco Opera super and a writer for BBC TV. For information about a gathering of friends, please call 415-357-1245.

Daryl P. Kirk
1950 – 1998

With peace, honor and dignity, you departed on a cloud of pure love the night of April 7 after a long, heroic battle with AIDS. Your physician, Dr. Shelley Gordon, was your guide and your support from the beginning. Smiling and radiant as always, you shared the last good-bye with your bubba, Mark; unsinkable family, Kirk; caregiving angel, Stuart; loyal buddy, Eg-a-bert; soul brothers, Mark, George and John; and constant friend and nurse, Denise.

The grief is unbearable, but such a small price for the infinite unconditional love, energy and strength you gave. Daryl, you showed us a way to live with courage in times of fear, hope in times of despair, laughter in times of grief, forgiveness in times of anger – and our

humanity is enlarged for it. The candle that burns twice as bright burns only half as long, but your flame will continue to burn within us for as long as we have memories.

Festive spirits will gather at your home on Sunday, April 19, at 2 p.m. to rejoice and remember. No flowers, please. Send donations in Daryl's memory to Project Open Hand so they can keep helping those who are not as blessed with such an abundance of devoted fans.

Thomas J. Koneval
Dec. 1, 1953 – April 5, 1998

Tommy died April 5, after more than a decade of living with AIDS. He grew up in Maple Springs, Ohio, and went to Northwestern University. He was a chemist for Del Monte Foods in San Francisco, moving to a condo in Walnut Creek in 1989.

Like so many of his gay brothers, Tom was an overachiever. He spoke French and Russian and played the piano beautifully. He was an excellent conversationalist, a charming host, an appreciative guest. He was a gentle soul, generous and big-hearted.

Tom was a dedicated member of the Muscle System, and he could often be seen spinning around the floor of the Rawhide. However, his greatest love was dogs, especially Ric's Emily and Alice, and Sarah and Gracie.

Tom leaves behind his mother, De-lores; his three brothers, Jimmy, David and Bobby, in Ohio; and many friends in San Francisco. He was able to stay at home until the last month before going to Maitri Hospice, where he was showered with love, compassion and superb care. With literally his last breath, he gave us the most beautiful, angelic smile. That sweet smile and warm heart will be missed by all who knew him.

William J. Lynch
July 23, 1957 – April 6, 1998

Bill died at home from complications due to AIDS. A native of West Virginia, he graduated from the University of West Virginia, settling in Los Angeles in the early '80s.

Bill established a successful career in interior design, working for many years at the Pacific Design Center in West Hollywood. He met his life partner, Ron Molina, in Los Angeles in 1988. In 1995, the two relocated to San Francisco, a place Bill had always dreamed of living.

Bill remained active throughout his life, volunteering at the Food Bank and Under One Roof. He continued his interest in writing, participating in numerous writing groups and workshops.

His many friends will miss his wit, intelligence and rare ability to always find a way to show his love for them. A

big thanks to SF General, Ward 86, Doctors Newman and Baker, and the entire staff for making living with AIDS easier for Bill.

Bill is survived by his life partner, Ron Molina; his mother; two sisters; two nephews; goddaughter, Annie; best friend, Bob; Kitty, Little Bit; and countless friends. Donations to Ward 86 or PAWS are requested in lieu of flowers.

Eugene "Gene" Sieber
May 16, 1937 – March 25, 1998

Eugene "Gene" Sieber, who was born in Switzerland, died March 25. He was 60.

A memorial Mass in remembrance of Gene will be held on Saturday, May 2, at 11 a.m. at the Most Holy Redeemer Church, 100 Diamond Street (at 18th) in the Castro. In lieu of flowers, donations should go to either the AIDS Emergency Fund or Project Open Hand.

Clinton H. Stahl
Sept. 12, 1936 – March 26, 1998

Clinton H. Stahl, who resided in San Francisco for many years, succumbed to cancer, on March 26 in Fresno, Calif. He was 61.

Clinton was born in San Bernardino, Calif., the son of Vernon and Alice, and the baby brother of Donna and Lloyd. He graduated from high school in Sutter Creek, Calif.; joined the Air Force; and served in Europe. Upon his return to civilian life and prior to his moving to San Francisco, he lived for many years in New York City and the Orlando, Fla. area. He married Lois Worden while in Florida, and even though he didn't have any children of his own, he helped raised five of them.

Clinton leaves family and friends on both coasts and in the heartland as well. He will be missed by all who knew him.

Teng to hold
hearing on
sunshine

San Francisco Supervisor Mabel Teng has announced that the board's Finance Committee will take up the issue of nonprofit "sunshine" accountability at its meeting on Wednesday, April 22. The meeting begins at 1 p.m. in the fourth floor committee room at the temporary City Hall, located at 401 Van Ness Avenue.

Activists zapped Teng on April Fool's Day over her failure to set a hearing date on the matter. At that meeting, she promised to hold a hearing this month before the committee gets wrapped up in work on the 1998-99 city budget. ▼

Fallon Building

◀ page 19

agreement calls for Friends of 1800 Market and the Foundation for San Francisco's Architectural heritage to pledge to help raise funds that would be used to help pay for restoration. Both groups are planning an event for this Saturday. (See sidebar, page 19.)

"This decision allows us to continue building on the spirit of cooperation that has developed between our board and the preservation community," said Dave Latina, chair of the center's building committee. "With a strong consensus about how to proceed, we can look forward to completing our fundraising to make the dream of a center a reality."

The CCP is in the midst of a \$3.5 million capital campaign for the \$9.5 million project. ▼

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Whoops, there goes another rubber tree

SAP gives out 500,000 condoms

by Cynthia Laird

lined up end to end in their snazzy green wrappers, the number of condoms distributed in gay bars and stores by Stop AIDS Project (SAP) would span almost 18 miles — 17.76 miles to be exact. Since last September, when the condom giveaway program started, 500,000 of them will have been handed out at 76 area businesses by the end of this month; SAP staff, board members, and local officials celebrated that feat at a reception Monday, April 13.

The Condoms Now! program has been one of the city's success stories in HIV prevention and was truly something that started as a grass roots effort, said Timothy Leifield, SAP executive director. Not many bar owners attended the reception that was held for them, although they did donate beverages for the event. San Francisco Supervisors Tom Ammiano and Leslie Katz were on hand, along with representatives from Mayer Laboratories, distributors of the Kimono Select condoms, and Health Director Dr. Mitch Katz, and Barry Brinkley, the city's HIV prevention director.

"We're celebrating an idea that was born in the community," said Leifield, adding that the *Bay Area Reporter* was one of those leading the effort along with activists Michael Petrelis, Tamara Ching, and Philip Turner, owner of Daddy's Bar. Turner was an early proponent of the program and has been buying his own condoms since he opened the bar. Elected leaders took up the matter and funding was approved in



Steven Gibson

last year's budget.

A breakdown of the numbers is impressive. Leading the way is the Cafe, which has distributed 20,592 condoms. That prompted Leslie Katz to joke, "The Cafe is not a lesbian bar anymore."

"The number of condoms distributed has exceeded our expectations. Last year, it was said I was the 'condom queen,' and it was an honor to carry the legislation," Katz said.

Smaller bars have also given out lots of condoms — 18,144 at The Stud, for example. And Ammiano pointed out that SAP has made inroads into bars and merchants that serve communities of color. At Esta Noche customers have taken 17,712 rubbers.

"This is great," said Ammiano. "Even if it's a small step like this, we know how important it can be."

Steven Gibson, community organizer with SAP, said the distribution program is going well. He has continued working with bar and club owners, getting them to keep the containers full and get-

ting more condoms to them within 48 hours of receiving a call if they run out of the latex. Interested businesses that aren't involved with the program are welcome to come aboard, he added.

"It's refreshing to see that these 76 businesses in San Francisco are demonstrating a true commitment to keeping their customers safe," Gibson said. "The participating businesses recognize that it not only makes good business sense, but that it's the right thing to do for the community that they serve."

Activists like Petrelis began demanding free condom distribution in October 1996; surprisingly, San Francisco, with its much-touted "model" for HIV/AIDS prevention, lacked a year-round condom distribution program. It took a year of slugging through the bureaucratic maze and establishing rapport with bar owners before SAP began the program just in time for last year's popular Folsom Street Fair.

Figures show SAP's outreach did expand during 1996-97; of 9,385 outreach contacts, just over 10 percent was with Latinos, and 6 percent was with African-Americans. The majority of outreach, almost 68 percent, was with Caucasians. Outreach contacts took place on the streets, in bars and dance clubs, and other venues that cater to gay and bisexual men. They consisted of a behavioral survey, a conversation about risk reduction and safe sex, and an invitation to workshops and events. ▼

For more information about Condoms Now! or other activities at Stop AIDS Project, call their new phone number (415) 575-0150. The agency's administrative offices have moved across the street and are now located at 2128 15th Street. The storefront, where workshops are held, remains at 207 Sanchez Street.



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Hoop realities

by Jim Provenzano

Sometimes, it's tough being too good. Take the Hot Shots, the Bay Area's gay basketball team. They took their last two tournaments easily with no losses. With an A team and B team, it's more of a battalion.

The A squad recently won the Chicago Shamrock Classic and last fall's Bean Pot Classic in Boston. "The B team has done pretty well, too," said Coach Tony Jasinski. With ten men on their A and B team, plus a few extras, it makes for a powerful group of guys on the court.

The Hot Shots have the advantage of being a popular sport, and they play in the queer-centrally located Eureka Valley Gym, and Jasinski is the man keeping things going, despite occasional snafus. More than once he's had to track down a weekend Parks & Recs manager to get into the building, but that problem should have been cleared up by now.

Although the rosters for Gay Games' A and B teams are set, they're still looking for players for a local league. "We could use some more," Jasinski said. "A number of regular guys may drop out."

The local gay league at Eureka Valley Gym is popular enough to require advance sign-ups and a draft. "Fifty-four players sign up, first come first serve," Jasinski said. "Typically each team may have a few straight guys." While the league is known to be gay, they do not discriminate.

"It's more of a friendly league,"

Tony said. "Guys that are buddies usually don't end up together. We like to make it more egalitarian." And with three refs on the court, it should be good and fair, as well.

Jasinski is also keeping tabs on the competition. "In Amsterdam, there should be six teams in men's basketball. Out of those, five are from California." So it will mostly be competition with other U.S. teams.

How are things looking for Amsterdam? "I know

they're really overwhelmed and they are doing their best," he said, noting that his registration has not been confirmed. As to team travel, the guys are making their own way there. "Everybody has their own plans to see another country."

Jasinski mentioned that Gay Games details are problematic. "It's easy to whine. I've seen a lot of people taking potshots. That's not helpful. They can't do everything to everybody's satisfaction in terms of each event and what's going on."

Upcoming events include a beer bust fundraiser at the Eagle Saturday May 30. Because most of the gay teams still don't have sponsors, "It's nice for them to support us."

Super Stars

So far over 400 people are registered in basketball. One quarter of those are from the US, and according to Dutch rosters, 70 percent are women! Among those ranks are the Bay Area's women's team, the Oakland Stars.

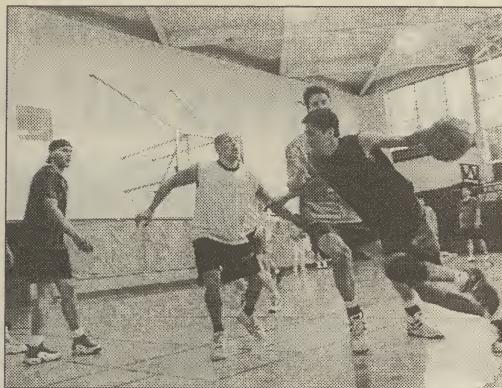
"We're all from Oakland, but we are affiliated with Team San Francisco," said Fran Simon, who admits she's become the point woman for lesbian women's basketball by default. "Actually, we're looking for a coach," she said of the fledgling team, which should no doubt bring back some victories despite their current coachlessness. Simon is hoping an experienced coach will step in and help out.

The team came together recently when several women played pick up games at Mills College on Sunday mornings. Many have played with the San Francisco Park & Recreation's Women's League, in A and BB league teams.

"It's a very friendly group of players," she said. "We haven't formally started training," she said. "We just entered the Eureka Valley Women's League." They plan to have practices once a week.

"We're really excited about going," said Simon, who played basketball and softball in the 1994 Gay Games in New York. A lot of the women are college players, so they bring quite a bit of experience, which may spell medals come August. But Simon focuses on the camaraderie over competition. "What we're looking forward to is playing teams from European countries."

This week is the Oakland Stars' first game in the Eureka Spring Women's Basketball League. In winter they played on two sepa-



Amsterdam-bound Alex Herrera drives for the basket against some formidable opposition at the Eureka Valley Gym April 12.

rate teams, but now they have formed into what will hopefully become a standard: a lesbian women's basketball team, where of course all women are welcome.

Women's basketball fans are encouraged to stop by the Eureka Valley Gym to see them. What better date material than watching a game of basketball in a dyke and homo-friendly gym?

Courtly behavior

Among the Hot Shots is Jerome Louis, who is "very psyched to go to Amsterdam. I'm playing basketball on the B squad and tennis."

Of his teammates, Louis says, "The A team is stacked. We look for them to bring us the gold. The B team wants to compete and try to place like we did in Vancouver in '90. They're a tall team. That

will help us a lot in the tournament."

He doesn't however, want people to think that the league is only for hard players. "All skill levels are encouraged to play. It really is recreational style. People should not be intimidated."

A basketballer since junior high school in North Carolina, Louis calls himself a "military late bloomer," one of those jocks who played sports and "had inklings" about being gay. Being later stationed at Treasure Island helped him gradually find other gay men only a bridge away.

He says sports helped him find a community. "Off the court they can just as easily shout out 'girlfriend.' It's no different. I wish society would see it the same way. I know gay athletes are in all sports. They're there." ▼

Hoop it up!

Oakland Stars Women's basketball team plays every Monday night at Eureka Valley Gym, 100 Collingwood at 18th, behind Cala Foods, in San Francisco's Castro district, with games at 6:30, 7:40, and 8:50. For info, call Fran Simon at (415) 396-5981.

Hot Shots play open court every Sunday at 5 p.m. at Eureka Valley Gym. League playing will be on Thursday nights, with games at 6:30, 7:40, and 8:50 through the second week of June.

Open court men's games are Sundays at 5 p.m. League fee is \$40 for the season, starts now and runs through June. Call Tony at (415) 621-2710, or get forms at Eureka Valley Gym.

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Court ruling stops overhead searches for indoor pot farms

United Press International

The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals has ruled that police must obtain a search warrant before "entering" a person's home by scanning it with a heat-seeking device.

The case involved a marijuana-grower whose operation was, in part, detected by a heat-radiation scan of his home. The court ruled the scan violated the Constitution's Fourth Amendment ban on unreasonable search and seizure.

Judge Robert Merhige wrote that the technique "strips the sanctuary of the home of one vital dimension of its security: the right to be let alone from the ar-

bitrary and discretionary monitoring of our actions by government officials."

The heat-seeking devices detect the heat from the high intensity lamps used by pot-growers as a light source in their inside operations.

Such devices as Forward Looking Infrared, or FLIR, are used to find fleeing suspects or people who are lost. They have extremely sensitive photoelectric cells that can detect minute differences in the temperatures of objects.

The court ruled in last week's opinion that the images that result from scanning a home with an infrared device are sufficiently "intimate" as to constitute a Fourth Amendment violation. ▼

16-year-old gets 15 years for sex with 13-year-old

In February, 16-year old Joe Daniel Swick pleaded guilty in February to sexually assaulting a 13-year-old boy in his home.

On Thursday, April 9, the Dumfries, Virginia teenager was sentenced to 15 years in an adult prison for it.

The teenager received almost twice as much jail time as 25-year-old John Timothy Reel, who also participated in the 1996 assault.

Reed was sentenced to 8 1/2 years in jail after making a tearful apology in February.

- Dave Winslow, UPI

Georgia family values?

The city manager of Camilla, Georgia and his wife have been charged with having sex with one a teenage son and videotaping it. Dennis and Holly Cox have been charged with child molestation, incest, and sodomy. Police chief Roy Folsom says seized computer files, photographs, and videotapes show the couple having sex with one of their sons. Workers became suspicious because Cox would always turn off his computer when someone walked into his office.


- United Press International

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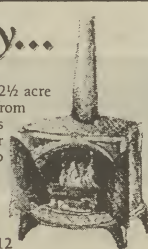
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LEGAL NOTICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 221382

The following person(s) are doing business as Gay Global San Francisco 805 Cortland Ave San Francisco, CA 94110. This business is conducted by an individual signed Michael Bosshard. The registrant commenced to transact business under the above-listed fictitious business name or names on 03/16/98 the statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 03/16/1998

APRIL 2, 9, 16, 23, 1998

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 221645

The following person(s) are doing business as Baraonda Trattoria Restaurant, 2164-2162 Larkin St. San Francisco, CA, 94109. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Fabrizio Laudati. The registrant commenced to transact business under the above-listed fictitious business name or names on N/A the statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 03/26/1998

APRIL 2, 9, 16, 23, 1998

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

Dear Potential Applicant:

The City and County of San Francisco Department of Human Services (SFDHS) announces its intent to seek proposals from organizations interested in contracting to provide a clean sober homeless shelter for single adult men.

An amount of \$478,800 will be made available for a two year contract to provide shelter beds and meals to a minimum of 40 adult men per night for the period of 7/1/98 through 6/30/2000. Desired shelter location is in the central city area north of Market Street. A Bidder's Conference will held at 170 Otis Street, 8th Floor, at 09:30 a.m. on Wednesday May 6th.

An RFP Packet (#132) may be picked up at the SFDHS Office of Contract Compliance, 170 Otis Street, 8th Floor, Beginning April 20 1998. Office hours are from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Proposals are due 5/20/98 at 1:00 p.m. NO EXCEPTIONS. Faxes are not accepted.

For copies of the RFP please contact Lois Voccia at 415-557-6594. Questions regarding the RFP may be directed to David Rees, Senior Contract Manager, at 415-557-5585

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E18

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E18

LEGAL NOTICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 221231

The following person(s) are doing business as Kevin Joyce Design 529 Texas Street, San Francisco, CA 94107. This business is conducted by a individual signed Kevin Lowry Joyce. The registrant commenced to transact business under the above-listed fictitious business name or names on Jan. 1, 1998. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 03/10/98

MAR 26, APRIL 2, 9, 16, 1998

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 221823

The following person(s) are doing business as D. B. Images. 512 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Calen F. Cook. The registrant commenced to transact business under the above-listed fictitious business name or names on 04/02/98

the statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 04/02/1998

APRIL 9, 16, 23, 30, MAY 7, 1998

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO NO 994259

In the Matter of the Application of James Leland Stoner. Order to show cause for change of name. The application of James Leland Stoner for change of name having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that James Leland Stoner has filed an application proposing that his name be changed to James Leland Stone. Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department X-4 on the 21st day of May, 1998 at 9 o'clock AM, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. It is further ordered that a copy of this Order be published.

RON FOX, Ph.D., MFCC

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lished in the Bay Area Reporter, a newspaper of general circulation, printed in said county, at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the day of said hearing. Dated this day of April 10, 1998

APRIL 16, 23, 30, MAY 7, 1998

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call 415.861.5019

RFP DHS - No.130

To Provide Intervention and Support Services to Runaway Youth for the City and County of San Francisco

The City and County of San Francisco Department of Human Services (SFDHS) announces its intent to seek proposals from organizations or individuals interested in contracting to provide intervention and support services to runaway youth for the City and County of San Francisco.

The amount of \$371,860 for a 2 year contract will be made available to provide intervention and support services to runaway youth for the City and County of San Francisco, for the period of 7/1/98 through 6/30/2000.

An RFP packet can be picked up at the SFDHS 170 Otis St., 8th Floor, beginning 4/17/98.

Office hours from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Respondent's Conference will be held on
May 4, 1998 (Monday), from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Proposals are due
May 18, 1998, at 1:00 p.m. NO EXCEPTIONS. Faxes are not accepted.

For copies of RFP, please contact: Louis Voccia, at (415) 557-6594. For questions regarding the RFP, please contact: Dolores Velazquez, Contract Manager, DHS, Office of Contract Compliance; Tel.: (415) 557-5864, FAX (415) 431-9270.

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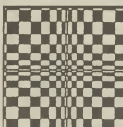
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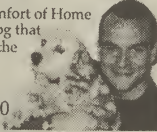
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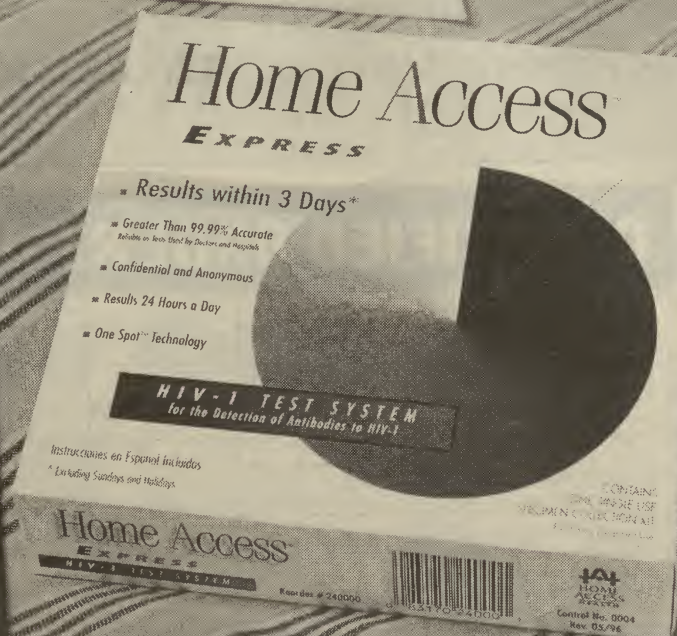
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Got Harvey Milk?
From the opera house
to the recording studio.
page 38



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 28 • No. 16 • 16 April 1998

LORNA LUFT: THE ANTI-LIZA

Judy Garland's other daughter tells all by John F. Karr

Somehow it's a little hard to get excited about Lorna Luft, daughter of Judy Garland, half-sister of Liza Minnelli. Her own credits position her as something of an entertainment biz cypher. She did well off Broadway in *Extremities*, but her only Broadway credit is the lead role in *Promises, Promises* — which she played as a replacement in the show's third year. She did play Miss Adelaide in the recent *Guys and Dolls* revival, but only on tour. She didn't play Sugar, although Gower Champion auditioned her three times, and she didn't play Grizabella in *Cats*, although Lloyd Webber sniffed around her seriously. She can't crow much

about her Hollywood credits, *Grease 2* and *Where the Boys Are*, but she lucked out with a year-and-a-half stint on television in *Trapper John, M.D.*

In other words, close but no cigar.

If that makes her sound like the also-ran of the Garland clan, guess again. She's pulled into lead position, at least momentarily, with the publication of her autobiography, *Me and My Shadows: A Family Memoir* (Pocket Books, \$25). It's just like Lorna — although lacking allure, it's sturdily done, sincere, and in some passages, sensational. But Lorna writes with such a lack of either style or energy that the sensational is diffused; indeed,

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SECOND OF TWO SECTIONS

Will & Deni McVey/Low Store Images; Judy Garland with baby Lorna; Luft photo by John Engstead; Liza Luft photo by Brian Arns; Liza Minnelli photo courtesy Photoset; family photo by Douglas Kirkland

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by Roberto Friedman
and Laa-Laa

In England, land of **Willie Shakespeare** and **Alexander Pope**, two million ostensibly sane citizens regularly sit down in front of the tube to watch the "landmark preschool comedy" *Teletubbies*, now spread irrevocably to our shores and broadcast weekday mornings on PBS. All the advance hype in supposedly serious newspapers piqued our interest, so we tuned in to catch the adventures of 'tubbies **Tinky Winky**, **Dipsy**, **Laa-Laa**, and **Po**, kewpie doll-like creatures with video screens on their tummies and bizarre antennae sprouting from their terry-cloth heads.

Do one-year-olds really need a TV show just for them? We're not sure they do, but have heard reports that the show's real growth audience has been London **clubkids**, who love watching it after staying up all night partying on Vitamin E, because the Day-Glo colors and infantile storylines really speak to them. Hey, sounds a lot like *California clubkids*!

Here's what happens in a typical episode. A live baby face morphed into an animation of the sun mugs and overacts outrageously—what's up with that? Teletubbies cavort in a surreal, druggie landscape that looks like a cross between a giant miniature golf course and a bad acid trip. Strange phallic periscopes rise up and proclaim, "Time for Teletubbies!" A "magic windmill" starts sending out bad vibes—Teletubs scatter. Periscope inquires sinisterly, "Where have all the Teletubbies gone?" They've gone to detox, every one.

The 'tubs then "turn on" by receiving transmissions via their antennae from the windmill. One of them begins broadcasting a video of some mindless preschool activity on its tummy screen, whereupon the others watch intently. When the tortuously slow clip finally ends, the creatures as one insist, "Again!" Obsessive-compulsives that they are, they watch the whole frigging thing all over again. Eventually they rub their receptive organs against each other in a sort of frenzied orgy and giggle, "Big hug!"

We tried watching this with the innocence of a tot, then we tried watching with the impaired consciousness of a drug addict. Neither way worked. If anything, the show lends credence to a cherished theory from our friend the pediatric nurse, that infants are born with a natural supply of LSD in their veins which wears off with time. We either need to refill our prescription, or we need to turn off *Teletubbies*.

Higher than thou

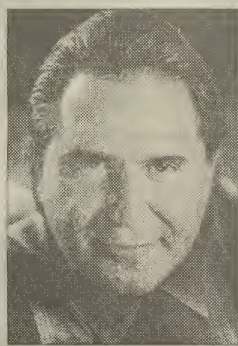
Those druggie toddlers seem a natural segue into our report on **Charles Fleming's** tell-all tome *High Concept*, subtitled **Don Simpson and the Hollywood Culture of Excess**, which left us reeling at the mating habits of the modern Hollywood heterosexual. Simpson was the successful producer of *Beverly Hills Cop*, *Top Gun*, and other shlocky blockbusters, and also "the film industry's most prodigious consumer of illicit sex and drugs," according to Fleming's account, due out from Doubleday in May. The Tinseltown potentate's bill for coke and various pharmaceuticals eventually reached over \$60,000 a month.



The Teletubbies: Dipsy, Laa-Laa, Po, and Tinky Winky.

The book, which came with advance blurbs from Hollywood blowhards **Joe Eszterhas** and **Dominick Dunne**, unearthed all sorts of nasty Hollywood secrets, such as how **Jennifer Beals** got the lead in *Flashdance*: **Michael Eisner** gathered a group of Teamsters for a viewing of screen tests by Beals, **Demi Moore**, and others. "He asked the la-

borers, 'Which one of these girls do you most want to fuck?' They most wanted Beals."



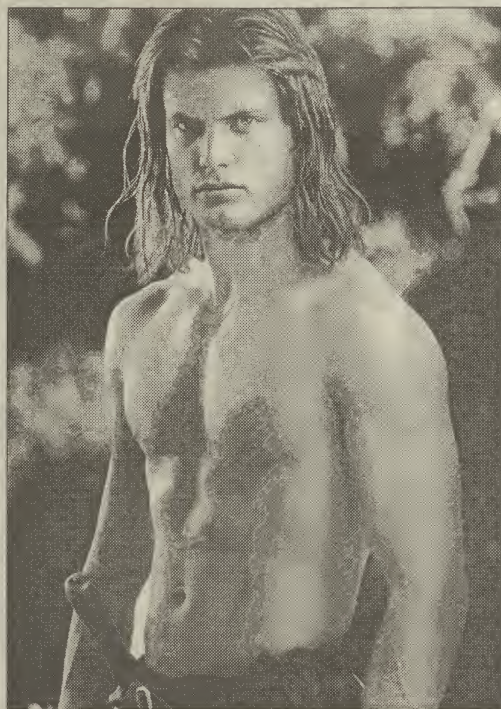
Late schlockmeister Don Simpson

Simpson himself was no gentleman. He once told a reporter that director **Steven Spielberg** was "really white bread, for a Jew." He referred to tiny sex symbol **Tom Cruise** as "the **Audie Murphy** of the 1990s." His legacy to film is the "high concept" movie—a product pitchable in ten seconds, requiring no ostensible thought on the part of its audience. Sounds like a nasty habit to us.

Me Tarzan, you HMO

Meanwhile, the dream machine churns on. We just had to share with Out There readers this publicity photo of neohunk **Casper Van Dien** in the Warner Bros. film *Tarzan and the Lost City*, opening next weekend at a finer movie palace near you. Keep in mind that this is far from the most revealing pic in the Photo-Pac, which includes one shot of Mr. Van Dien clutching a weapon in a shape that usually comes in skin-tone rubber. But what we love most about this particular photo is the appendectomy scar clearly visible across Mr. Van Dien's bare midriff, leading us to conclude he must get pretty good healthcare coverage out there in the jungle. Looks like Tarzan has also just been to see **José Eber**, stylist to the stars, famed for teas-

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Casper Van Dien showing his appendectomy scar as wild man Tarzan.

THEATRE

'Do I Hear a Waltz?'

Venetian holiday

by Richard Dodds

One of the miracles of theater is how the mind can become a willing partner in its own deception. How else to explain how readily we paint in scenes of Venice on the blank stage canvas at the New Conservatory Theatre? The actors may sometimes be holding scripts, and the entire cast stays in view on a row of Spartan chairs, but it's easy to believe a gondola is just out of sight.

The 42nd Street Moon company is opening its sixth season of "lost musicals" with *Do I Hear a Waltz?*, a 1965 musical that follows the romantic misadventures of Leona Samish, a lonely American tourist in Venice. While the musical has its obvious flaws — it probably wouldn't be "lost" if it didn't — there are still many pleasures in this chance finally to encounter the musical beyond its cast album.

Back in 1965, *Do I Hear a Waltz?* promised a meeting of Broadway generations, as the already legendary composer Richard Rodgers teamed with the precocious lyricist Stephen Sondheim. But the creative marriage turned out to be more shotgun than blissful. Predictably, Sondheim wanted a darker approach and Rodgers a sunnier one, and the blurred results satisfied no one.

There are only hints of Sondheim's trenchant wit and clever rhymes as he opts to match the conventional melodies that Rodgers was providing. While a novelty song about the rigors of traveling by plane or how a tourist should bargain with local merchants is fine as lightweight musical comedy fare, one can only imagine how hard Sondheim must have swallowed to write the words.

Giddiness turns dark

The musical is an adaptation of Arthur Laurents' play *The Time of the Cuckoo*, which became better known in its screen version, *Summertime*, starring Katharine Hepburn as the husband-hunting tourist in Venice. In its musical form, the tale has a Broadway giddiness before turning surprisingly dark in its final scenes.

Director Greg MacKellan's polished staging is equally confident in both of the musical's moods. He and his cast are able to convey the spirit of the traditional Broadway musical, but when the storm clouds roll in, no punches are pulled.

Marsha Mercant is excellent as Leona, the kind of thirtysomething character who used to be called a spinster. Mercant expertly paints a woman who is both perky and slightly desperate, and her second-act meltdown is convincingly handled. And the lady can sing.

As Renato Di Rossi, a married Venetian who courts a wavering Leona, Joe Giuffre offers a thoughtful, sensitive and appealing performance. His voice can be thin, and his songs don't always register, but he can hit the big notes when the chips are down.

The strong work continues in Kelly Ground's forceful performance as the libidinous innkeeper and Caroline Altman's humorous turn as her often-addled maid. Steve Rhyne and Dyan McBride as a sparring couple, and Robin Steeves and Sean Sharp as an if-it's-Tuesday-this-must-be-Venice couple smartly fill up the pensione, while youngsters Darren Criss as a friendly urchin and

Zac Moon as Renato's solemn son add to the stylish proceedings. Musical director Brandon Adams lends assured accompaniment from an onstage piano.

Do I Hear a Waltz? may have been an unhappy experience for its creators, but what they wrought is perfect for 42nd Street Moon. So grab the K, L or M gondola and get off at Venice — I mean Van Ness. ▼

Do I Hear a Waltz? plays the New Conservatory Theatre, 25 Van Ness Avenue, through May 3. Call 861-8972.



Marsha Mercant in 42nd Street Moon's *Do I Hear a Waltz?*

42nd Street Moon

Season of dames

by Richard Dodds

For its sixth season of "lost musicals," 42nd Street Moon is celebrating the "Delicious Dames of Broadway." Great parts for women and/or parts that were played by the female greats provided the criteria for the season's offerings.

"We have so many terrific female performers that we want to feature, and it seems it has been women for the most part who have star-driven the Broadway vehicles," said Greg MacKellan, who shares the Producing Artistic Director title with Stephanie Rhoads. 42nd Street Moon calls its productions "concert readings," but while performers occasionally refer to scripts, the musicals are staged with hints of choreography. The goal, MacKellan said, is to find worthy material that has fallen through the cracks over the years.

"We want to do things beyond the *Hello, Dolly!*/*Fiddler on the Roof* axis," MacKellan said. "There is a danger in just doing anything because it's obscure, but for the most part we've done shows by the great composers. We're trying to find things that people are not going to be able to see anywhere else."

Here is 42nd Street Moon's 1998 season at the New Conservatory Theatre:

Do I Hear a Waltz? (through May 3) — Opened 1965 at the 46th Street Theatre (now the Richard Rodgers); 220 performances. See accompanying review.

Girl Crazy (Aug. 5-23) — Opened 1930 at the Alvin Theatre (now the Neil Simon); 272 performances. Tale of a New York playboy who turns a dusty Arizona farm into a song-and-dance dude ranch. Songs by George and Ira Gershwin include "I Got Rhythm" and "Embraceable You." "We wanted to do a George Gershwin show, because this year is his 100th birthday, and this is sort of the definitive Gershwin hit," MacKellan said. "And the framework of our season, featuring female stars, limited what Gershwin show we could do, and this was a double-header: Ginger Rogers and Ethel Merman."

Redhead (Sept. 2-20) — Opened 1959 at the 46th Street Theatre; 452 performances. Originally conceived as a vehicle for Beatrice Lillie, this murder-mystery musical was reconfigured for the talents of Gwen Verdon, who played a young woman working in a wax museum stalked by a serial killer in Victorian London. The score is by Albert Hague and Dorothy Fields. "We wanted to do a Gwen Verdon show," MacKellan said. "It was either going to be *Redhead* or *New Girl in Town*, and *Redhead* seemed to be the quirkier choice because it's a murder mystery, and because it was a major hit that has virtually disappeared." Lesley Hamilton, a 42nd Street Moon veteran, is taking on the challenge of filling Verdon's shoes.

A Tree Grows in Brooklyn (Sept. 30-Oct. 18) — Opened 1951 at the Alvin Theatre; 270 performances. Arthur Schwartz and Dorothy Fields provided the songs in a musical adaptation of Betty Smith's bestselling autobiographical novel of the loving but troubled Nolan clan. "A lot of our audience requested the show," MacKellan said. "It's got a good book, a really terrific score, and two terrific star parts for women."

Nymph Errant (Oct. 28-Nov. 15) — Opened 1933 at the Adelphi Theatre in London; 154 performances. Gertrude Lawrence starred in Cole Porter's racy musical about a young Englishwoman's search for romance and adventure. "We wanted to do a Gertrude Lawrence show, and *Lady in the Dark* was iffy if it was going to be available to us," MacKellan said. "This show has only been produced in the United States once, yet was a huge hit in London, and it was Porter's own personal favorite of his scores."

Call Me Madam (Nov. 25-Dec. 20) — Opened 1950 at the Imperial Theatre; 644 performances. Ethel Merman played the hostess with the mostes in Irving Berlin's satire of Washington, D.C. "We're sort of crossing the line with this one," MacKellan said, "because it's certainly not a lost musical. But we wanted to do one of the later Merman shows, and we had Meg Mackay for the role, and it seemed like a perfect marriage." ▼

Tickets to individual shows are \$18.50 and \$20. Season tickets to the six-show series are \$99. For more info, call 861-8972.

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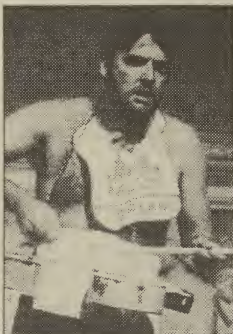
by Deborah Peifer

I saw *Double Fisted*, the second play in New Conservatory Theatre's Celebrating Women Series last week, and was very impressed. Miriam Kronberg's solo show is raw theatre, new, unpolished, electrifying. I felt that I was present at the creation of something remarkable, and was pleased to be a part of so magic a moment. The play is full of artistic risks that succeed far more often than they fail, and even the failures are marvelous to behold. My question, then, is this: why are so few women going to NCT's women's programs? The box-office failure of the previous women's series put women's work on hold at NCT, and if this series fails to pay for itself at least, the theatre will have no choice but to abandon women's work yet again. Now it can't be the quality of the current roster, and I know that there are not so many women's venues in the city that we can afford to blow one off. So what gives, women? I'll publish your responses in a future column, but in the meantime, consider checking out *Ballistic Femme*, Marie Cartier's solo exploration of things butch, femme, and in-between. The show runs through May 3 at NCT, 25 Van Ness (convenient to public transportation). Call 861-8972 for tickets.

New plays

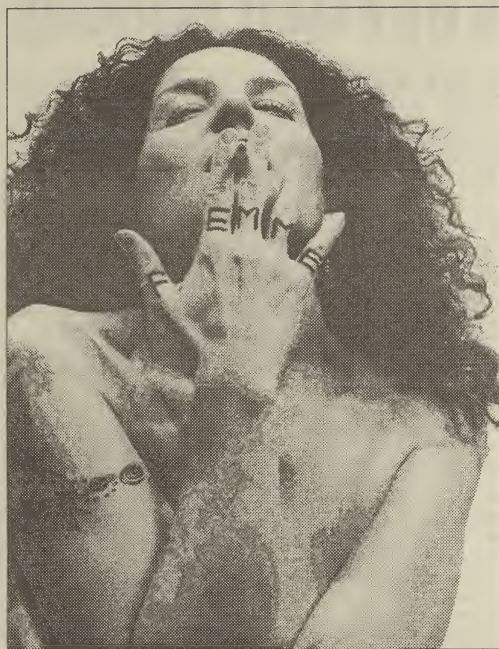
Camp Santo presents the world premiere of Jorge Ignacio Cortinas' *Maleta Mulata*, featuring Bay Area artists Wilma Bonet, Lisa Ramirez, and Michael Torres. The show runs through April 26 at Intersection for the Arts, 446 Valencia. Call 626-3311.

"From the Page to the Stage," a series of new play readings, continues through April 28 at Footloose at Venue 9, 252 Ninth St. Also at Venue 9, on April 29, The Ross Thompson Ensemble plays original compositions. Call 289-2000 for tix.



Brian Routh in *Psychic Attack*

Brian Routh's *Psychic Attack* counts as a new play, I think, because it changed in the course of our phone conversation. "I channel my parents and people that I make up during the play," Routh explained. "I use dolls and rituals and play many different roles, but I don't want the audience to be sure if I'm a Bible-basher, or what. I don't do the show as an attack on New Age or spirituality. I hope the show covers its hidden message with lots of laughs, but it sometimes shocks people. Of course, what I do on the seventeenth may not be anything like



Marie Cartier in *Ballistic Femme*

what I've talked about today." *Psychic Attack* plays for one performance only, April 17, at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 701 Mission at Third. Call 978-2787.

Ethnicity all over

ATJT presents *Echoes & Postcards*, an original variety revue by The Road Company of Johnson City, Tennessee. The company's work is based on the concerns of the community in which it is based. A recent play of theirs, *Horse Power and Electric Cable*, explored whether or not Johnson City should be wired for electricity. *Echoes* celebrates country music and the people who love it, and is, according to ATJT's Kendra Moyer, "not sentimental, but very entertaining." *Echoes* runs from April 22 to May 3 at ATJT.

Teatro Shalom, which honors the ideal of multicultural theatre in its combined Spanish and Hebrew name, presents Steven Berkoff's *Kvetch* at Exit Stage Left, 156 Eddy. Director David Gassner describes the play as "exploring the difference between the calm exterior we show the world and the screaming that is going on inside." Gassner says that even though ours is a multicultural city, "theatres tend to be ethnic-specific. Our goal is open theatre to non-white actors, and we search for great plays that can be cast multiculturally. Our politics are important to us, but we never

let the play be overwhelmed by the politics. We want to do plays in which the political message is more subtle." Check out *Kvetch* through May 2. Call 602-4387.

Miscellany

Josie's continues its wildly successful dinner theatre with Musty Chiffon, the legendary drag baritone. Dinner with preferred seating for the show costs a mere \$30. Call 861-7933.

The problem with Bill Clinton's constantly changing fortune is that political satirists have to scramble to keep up. Gross National Product's *Sex, Lies & Zippergate* (formerly *PaulaGate*, *MonicaGate*, then *KathleenWillieGate*) lampoons the latest on the Free Willie front (am I the only one who found Kathleen's last name painfully appropriate?). The show opens April 23 at the Plush Room, 940 Sutter. Call 885-2800.

Waxworks, an original musical comedy mystery, plays April 23-May 31 at Alcazar Theatre, 650 Geary. Call 441-4042.

Carni Mundi, described by co-director Scott Levkoff as "a thrill ride designed by Willy Wonka and a light-hearted Marquis de Sade," plays at Climate Gallery, 285 9th St. through May 2. Call 978-2345 for info. ▼

If you have gossip, inquiries, or information of a performative nature, send them to dpeifer@delphi.com or via snail mail to the B.A.R.



Robert Mackey and Eloise B. Chitmon in Teatro Shalom's *Kvetch*.

PROFILE

An appreciation

Cher at the Millennium

by John R. Killacky

We have lived with the ever-changing persona of Cher for over thirty years now. More than once, the public has written her off, only to witness her re-emerge in yet another incarnation. Things may have been quiet on the Cher front for the last couple of years, but it seems she's preparing yet another assault on our sensibilities.

In January, Cher jumped back onto the front pages as she eulogized her former husband and singing partner, Sonny Bono. At the Oscars in March, she upstaged everyone with a wonderfully wacky beaded see-through Bob Mackie gown topped with a tri-corner heart-shaped headpiece.

This Sunday, April 19, she is to receive the "Vanguard Award" from the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) in Los Angeles in recognition of her work with Lesbians and Families of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG), National Coming Out Day, and AmFAR. "The reason this award from GLAAD means so much to me," said Cher, "is because I'm being honored by the gay community, a group of people who have stood by me through thick and thin."

As for her career, television, movie, and recording projects are once more in development. She will be hosting a CBS special on May 20, "Cher Remembers Sonny," commemorating their variety series from the '70s. Other television projects include co-executive producing a film, *Oak Ridge*, for NBC's 1998/99 season, plans for her to guest star on an upcoming *X-Files* episode, and continuing negotiations for her own weekly sitcom. On the big screen, she begins working in July with Franco Zeffirelli on his film *Tea with Mussolini*, to feature Angela Lansbury, Joan Plowright, and Rosemary Harris.

Repackaged

Sonny Bono's unexpected death has unleashed a re-packaging of many of their early recordings. Reprise has Cher working with Junior Vasquez on new ma-



Cher

terial, including covers of John Paul Young's "Love Is In The Air," Alison Moyet's "Invisible," and a Dusty Springfield tune. Vasquez mixed some of the songs on Cher's 1996 release *It's A Man's World*, which was critically acclaimed and sold well in Europe, but stifled here in the States.

As we prepare for the latest Cher onslaught, let's take a moment to review a career that has had many transformations. In the '60s, she played the role of a bell-bottomed, overly masacared folk rocker, producing a slew of hits with Sonny that included "I Got You Babe," "Bang, Bang (My Baby Shot Me Down)," "The Beat Goes On," and "You Better Sit Down, Kids."

Sonny and Cher recreated themselves for the '70s into Las Vegas glitz and lite comic patter. Their successful weekly television show often featured more costumes than music or comedy. Looking back at that time, Cher has said, "People regarded me as a clothes hanger more than an entertainer. They thought I was what I looked like." By the mid-70s, Cher had left Sonny behind and gave us such memorably trashy story songs as "Gypsies, Tramps, and Thieves," "Half Breed," and "Dark Lady." At the end of the decade, she reinvented herself once more with a disco hit,

"Take Me Home."

Cher the actress blossomed in the '80s. Although she had two still-born movie roles in the sixties, in *Good Times* and *Chastity*, it wasn't until Robert Altman cast her in his Broadway production of *Come Back to the Five and Dime, Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean* that she was taken seriously. Seeing her in this production, Mike Nichols cast her opposite Meryl Streep in *Silkwood* as an unadorned nuclear plant worker. Leading roles followed as a no-nonsense biker mom in *Mask*, a divorcee seduced by the devil (Jack Nicholson) in *The Witches of Eastwick*, an over-earnest public defender in *Suspect*, an eccentric single mother in *Mermaids*, and her Academy Award-winning performance as a drab Italian bookkeeper who throws everything over for Nicholas Cage in *Moonstruck*.

Power ballads

During the eighties, her music career stalled. "It's bizarre — I couldn't become an actress for

five years because I was a singer. Now everybody is worried people aren't going to accept me as a singer because I'm an actress," she said of this period. However, in 1987 she signed with former *amour* David Geffen's label, and turned out a string of power ballads that included "After All," "If I Could Turn Back Time," and a remake of "The Shoop Shoop Song (It's In His Kiss)."

In this decade, Cher morphed herself into a '90s infomercial queen selling perfume; hawked hair-care products; endorsing health clubs, fitness workout videos and books; and mailing us her *Sanctuary* catalog of Gothic chotchkes. Artistically, her output has been meager: cameos in two Altman films, and a stilted performance in Paul Mazursky's fiasco *Faithful*. Last season, she tried her hand directing and starring in an episode of HBO's highly-rated *If These Walls Could Talk*.

However, we will now have an opportunity to grapple with her more serious side once again. She has changed agents, media handlers, and managers, wanting to get her career back on higher ground. Looks like we'll all be dealing with Cher well into the next millennium. "People forget I've been away and come back... When I come back, I come back in a big way," she has warned us before.

For over three decades, Cher has entertained us with her talent and her forthrightness, continually metamorphosing herself unabashedly in the public eye, while tantalizing us with her failed boy-toy romances, fashion *faux pas*, plastic surgeries, and tattooed body parts. "My life isn't up for criticism, just my work," she has often said. It should be fun to watch as Cher gets back to work. ▼

John R. Killacky is Executive Director of Yerba Buena Center for the Arts.

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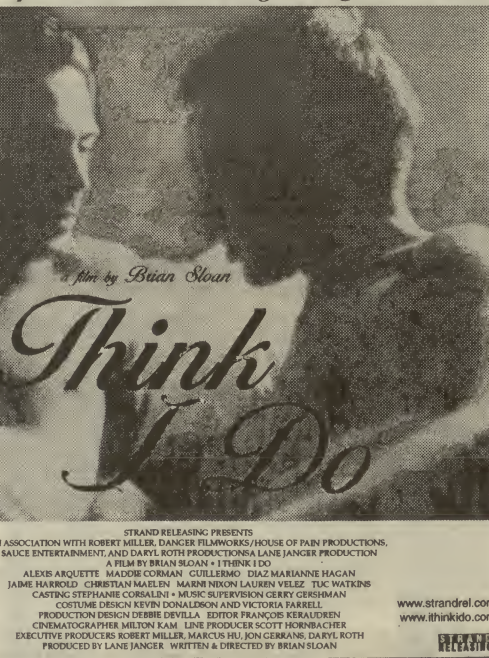
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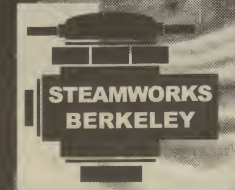
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SF Opera on disc

Evaporated Milk

by Timothy Pfaff

The long-delayed arrival of the San Francisco Opera recording of *Harvey Milk* (Teldec, 2 CDs) has turned what was a literally momentous musical event into something of an anticlimax. The *Milk*, it would appear, has evaporated in the can.

When the co-commissioning San Francisco Opera produced the Stewart Wallace-Michael Korie piece at the Orpheum Theatre in 1996, it was as if *Harvey Milk* had in every sense finally arrived. Although it had already had its premiere at Houston Grand Opera and a revival at New York City Opera, in the city whose history it told, it played in a significantly revised version, one its creators endorsed, and one that audiences and critics who had seen both versions agreed represented a substantial improvement. Even though the seismic retrofitting of the Opera House that season meant the opera could not be performed in the place where then-San Francisco Supervisor Milk attended a performance of *Tosca* the weekend before his assassination, it seemed fitting enough that the opera was performed in the shadow of a City Hall — where the assassination took place — itself shrouded for a retrofit. The penultimate performance even coincided with the annual Candlelight March memorializing the twin assassinations of Milk and Mayor George Moscone, the subject of the opera's final scene. Geography, history, ritual, and art mingled potentially.

Legions of people prepared to hate the piece well before the curtain first went up on November 9 — for a list of reasons that only began with imagined misrepresentations of the events in the life of a gay saint — found themselves convinced by its artistic truth and, ultimately, deeply moved. After the run I had occasion to speak with several performers who took part in the historical events as well as the opera drawn from them — all of whom acknowledged overcoming an initial distaste for the piece (the music, mostly) and becoming swept up in its spirit.

Even at the time, a CD-only recording of *Harvey Milk* seemed nonsensical. The Opera has, after all, made commercial videos of far less compelling (to say nothing of



Harvey Milk (right) with George Moscone at the San Francisco Opera, 1978.

important) productions, and Christopher Alden's visually vibrant and dramatically strong production, with its brilliantly cinematic compression of decades of gay history, made at least as important a contribution as Wallace's score or Korie's libretto. The release of the you-had-to-be-there Teldec CDs now confirms that far more than a really good show has been lost.

On its own, strictly musical terms, the recording is a success. Made in Davies Hall at the end of the run, it's in exceptionally good sound, and the performances all around are accomplished. The cast sounds anything but tired, and the orchestra, playing brilliantly under Donald Runnicles, can be heard with far greater clarity than the Orpheum's deeply recessed pit ever allowed.

Missing charge

But there's no mistaking that it's a studio performance. What's missing isn't just a sense of occasion, but the unique charge of a publicly enacted theatrical ritual. Any gains in digital clarity are meager compensation.

Without the visuals to lend coherence, virtually all of the first CD is reduced to aural gibberish. What felt concise in the staged production sounds like musical shorthand in the living room. The opera house, cruise park, New York apartment, and Castro Street scenes blend with bewildering breathlessness.

At the emblematic level, one of the production's most important images was its depiction of two

gay men in bed, a significant first in the conservative world of opera. The scene, of Harvey and his lover Scott Smith in the aftermath of the openly gay candidate's first defeat at the polls, opens the second CD, and it's from this point on that the recording begins to amass some dramatic weight. Raymond Very's soulful rendition of Dan White's "there goes the neighborhood" lament, and Robert Orth's wrenching account of Harvey's final soliloquy retain much of the force they had on stage. But with the frenzy of the Board of Supes meeting that begins Act III, a highlight of the stage production, the aural picture starts to break up again, and the opera's climax, the assassination and its aftermath, is weakened in the process.

Putting it under the digital microscope reveals the shortcomings in Wallace's score. It's an opera, alright, but its debt to American musical theater becomes clearer than before, and as such it comes up short, particularly in the scattershot ensembles. And despite the splendid work of the Opera Chorus, the thinness of the choral writing becomes evident, particularly by comparison with comparable efforts by, say, John Adams in *The Death of Klinghoffer*.

A theme that runs throughout the opera is the importance — and power — of remembrance, and in the theater *Harvey Milk* remembered well. By comparison, the *Harvey Milk* CDs seem little more than souvenirs for those opera-goers who got *Milk* onstage. ▼

San Francisco Symphony at Davies

Radiant light

by Philip Campbell

Spring has been coming on with a little shakiness, both inside and out of Davies Symphony Hall. The recent arrival of English conductor Sir Roger Norrington, however, managed to flood the auditorium with a suitably radiant light and celebrated the Passover/Easter weekend with some genuine fervor.

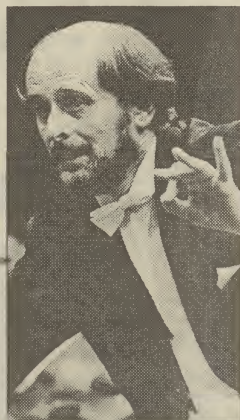
It's always nice when Passover and Easter coincide as neatly as they have done this year. Choosing a big holiday piece in celebration might be a problem, had

Felix Mendelssohn not written the oratorio *Elijah*. Luckily, the Jewish-Lutheran composer supplied his own magnum opus and a mighty Biblical entertainment.

Norrington cautioned the audience in a charming speech that they would hear an hour of beautiful music followed by another hour of even more beautiful music. What he meant was: it's long, but worth it.

He was correct, although *Elijah* can be pretty slow going in the wrong hands. Thankfully, Norrington has "authentic" performance credentials and knows how

page 43 ►



Conductor Sir Roger Norrington

THEATRE

Emerging Playwrights Festival PlayGround pair

by Richard Dodds

The student and the teacher will be going to the PlayGround together. Garret Jon Groenveld, who has been teaching a creative writing class at Shanti for several years, and Ed Brownson, who has been taking the class almost from its beginning, have both had works chosen for the emerging playwrights festival known as PlayGround. The recognition means very different things to these two men.

For Brownson, the 46-year-old student, it's a sign that the second chance the new HIV drugs have given him will let him fulfill a dream deferred. "Now I know what I want to do with the time I have left, now that the end is not so imminent," he said.

For Groenveld, the 31-year-old volunteer teacher, there is a double pleasure in the PlayGround selections. As an aspiring writer who recently received a master's in playwriting at San Francisco State, his award is welcome affirmation. And as someone with plans to teach professionally, having a student selected was "confirmation that I was doing something right."

Brownson's short play *The Audience*, about an encounter with God in a coffeehouse, and Groenveld's verse monologue *The Voyage of St. Brandaen, Year One*, based on a 13th-century Dutch poem, will be two of the seven pieces presented each evening during the run of the second annual Emerging Playwrights Festival. The seven developing writers get to see their works in full stagings presented by professional actors and directors. They were selected from more than 100 submissions to the PlayGround Monday Night PlayLab, now in its fourth year.

Shanti's writing class, designed as a creative outlet for people dealing with HIV and AIDS, also began four years ago. "Some may take the class to work through therapy issues cheap," Groenveld said, "others to understand something about themselves. As AIDS is taking things away, at least you can feel you're gaining something in all this."

That's certainly been the case with Brownson. "AIDS has been a major component of my life for most of my adult life," he said. "I figure I've been positive since 1981, I lost my first friend in 1985, and buried my first lover in 1987. With the class, I'm able to get out



Playwrights Ed Brownson and Garret Jon Groenveld

of the goddamn illness for awhile."

He recognizes now that one of the first poems he wrote for the class was an allegory about AIDS, though it's not a topic he has been willing to confront consciously in his writings. "But as my health has improved dramatically, it is easier to look back on it," Brownson said. "My first big play will be about AIDS, but it will be a drag to write because of that."

Coffeehouse deity

In *The Audience*, Brownson's one-act play, a young man tries to convince his cynical friend Rudy that a woman quietly reading the newspaper in a coffeehouse is actually God. Even though Rudy refuses to believe, he becomes crazed when she won't pay him any attention.

When Groenveld suggested that AIDS may be an unspoken component of his student's piece, Brownson objected. "I knew a lot of Rudy's when I was working [as a computer consultant] for just about every corporation in this city." What the play is actually about is up to the audience, Brownson said. "I want them to imagine what it would be like to be in that situation. It's the ambiguity that intrigues me."

Religion is also a factor in Groenveld's offering. Based on the legend of a mythical saint, *The Voyage of St. Brandaen, Year One* focuses on a young monk who, doubting his faith, encounters an angel sent by God. In a search for truth, he sets out on a nine-year solo journey that Groenveld will explore in subsequent chapters.

"I think the idea of truth is so nebulous," he said. "I pretty much gave up religion when I came out,

and for me, this is a great exploration of faith and religion."

New members of any skill level are still welcome in Groenveld's class. "It's a cross between a writing class and a support group," he said, "but the goal is to focus more on the writing than the illness."

"When I started," Brownson said, "my health wasn't good, and the class was a non-threatening environment. Garret's gentle encouragement even when the writing was smelly gave me the courage to go on. It's been my dream to be a writer since I was 13, but I never focused on it. I never thought I'd get a second chance." ▼

PlayGround's Emerging Playwrights Festival plays through April 19 at A Traveling Jewish Theatre, 2800 Mariposa. Call 399-1809. For more information on the writing class, call the Shanti activities line at 487-4744.

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Interview in Italy

David Leavitt in hiding

by Brandon Judell

David Leavitt, arguably America's best-known openly gay author after Gore Vidal and Edmund White, has two new books out. *The Page Turner* (Houghton Mifflin; \$24) is a new novel about Paul Porterfield, a young virgin who turns the pages for Richard Kennington, a famous pianist, during a concert. He falls in love with his idol and eventually gets plowed by the same in Italy. The seduction begins with a massage.

"Kennington slapped lightly at the back of Paul's head. 'I thought we'd agreed not to talk about music tonight.'"

"I forgot."

"Why don't you shut up and just breathe? You're never going to play Chopin until you learn to relax."

"Okay."

"Good," Kennington said. "That's better." He touched the backs of Paul's calves very lightly, so that goose bumps rose."

The second Leavitt offering is an anthology he pulled together with his lover, Mark Mitchell. *Pages Passed From Hand to Hand: The Hidden Tradition of Homosexual Literature from 1748 to 1914* (Houghton Mifflin; \$30) is an at-times fascinating collection of writings about same-sex love by authors who risked all if their true intentions had been discovered at the time. In Herman Melville's "I and My Chimney," there is according to Leavitt the first-ever mention of "the closet." In John Francis Bloxam's "The Priest and the Acolyte," a priest falls for and has an affair with a young lad. Don't expect a happy ending for that tale, but there are some in the other spotlighted works by Henry James, Horace Annlesley Vachell,

Willa Cather, John Cleland, and Walter Pater.

When in Rome ...

But with two major tomes hitting the bookstore shelves, where's Leavitt? Why did he cancel his book tour at the last moment?

The one-time boy wonder is in Rome getting ready to transfer all his belongings to the country. "We're supposed to be moving tomorrow," the 38-year-old auteur of *The Lost Language of the Cranes* and *While England Sleeps* notes. "The house was built in the late fifties. The only person who ever lived there was a farmer, a Signore Pelligrini. No one very interesting."

So why all this expatriation? Before Italy, Leavitt had spent years in Spain. "I love living in

page 43 ►



David Leavitt

Roman triangle

by Jameson Currier

The Page Turner by David Leavitt; Houghton Mifflin, \$24

In his best works of fiction, particularly his well-crafted collections of short stories such as *Family Dancing* and *A Place I've Never Been*, and the recently published novellas comprising *Arkansas*, author David Leavitt vividly reveals the inner and outer complexities of his contemporary characters. Plotting and originality have never been Leavitt's strengths (this is the writer that the British poet Stephen Spender sued for plagiarism over Leavitt's last novel *While England Sleeps*), but the absence of his usual deftly drawn characters in his newest novel, *The Page Turner*, only heightens the implausibilities of this frequently strained story of a young musician.

Paul Porterfield, an eighteen-year-old pianist, meets his idol Richard Kennington, a former piano prodigy now nearing forty, when he is selected to be the page turner at one of Kennington's concerts near Paul's home in San Francisco. Paul's nervous meticulousness and "musk of animal discomfort" unnerve Kennington during the concert because the pianist finds the young man to be an "echo of himself, years earlier."

Nothing connects between the two musicians after the concert except a shared passion for music and the details of Kennington's career, but a few months later when Paul, now graduated from high school, goes to Rome with his mother, Pamela, his path again crosses Kennington's, who has just completed a European concert tour. This time, romantic sparks fly between Kennington and the young Porterfield, and they become involved in an affair conducted through a series of sly evasions from Paul's mother. Pamela, recently separated from her husband because of his affair with another woman, only sees Kennington for his wit and charm as he guides the three of them through the best of Rome's cafes and restaurants. Soon enough, of course, Pamela develops her own affections for Kennington, unaware of the level of her son's involvement with the musician, or of the fact that to Kennington she was "merely an obstacle, a source of trouble he needed to flatter in order to ensure that he and Paul could continue sleeping together."

No free spirit

Kennington, however, is not the free spirit he pretends to be to Paul or Pamela, and just as Leavitt leads the three of them into a messy though interesting triangle, Kennington flees to New York City to be with his lover and manager of twenty-five years, Joseph Mansourian. More complications ensue when Paul goes to Manhattan in the fall to study at Juilliard. He meets Mansourian with the hope of becoming represented as a concert performer, unaware of the underlying truth of the manager's relationship with Kennington. Through a series of miscommunications via a pornographic magazine discovered beneath a bed and a stolen autographed photo, Paul's mother is soon racing to Manhattan, fearful of Kennington's further influence over her son.

Beyond this contrived plot and Leavitt's working knowledge and appreciation of Rome, there is not much more to *The Page Turner*; layers and subtexts don't exist within this thinly written novel. In spite of its shortcomings, however, *The Page Turner* may well become Leavitt's most popular work to date, because of its heightened romanticism and its potential positioning into the young adult fiction market. But the biggest disappointment of Leavitt's newest work is the author's avoidance of tackling more profound issues of contemporary life in his fiction, and his unwillingness to push his narrative fiction into a bolder direction. ▼

Jameson Currier is a member of the National Book Critics Circle and the author of a forthcoming novel, *Where The Rainbow Ends*, to be published by Overlook Press this fall.

The Lavender Tube Disenchanting April

by Victoria A. Brownworth

It was a prescient moment when T.S. Eliot wrote that April is the cruelest month. There is something truly depressing about a month in which Michael Jackson clones another baby (Paris); George Michael gets pinched performing his new solo act; Xena, Lesbian Princess gets married (well, Lucy Lawless did); and we must pay taxes to a government that doesn't recognize queers exist. Ah April, that limbo time between the start of the midseason shows, reruns of the Nielsen tops, and the drama of the May sweeps extravaganza, is enough to send even small-screen diehards into the arms of Nick at Night. For those who don't have cable, as Judy Tenuta says: "Suffer!"

Yes, Lent and Ramadan are officially over, yet there is still penance galore to be found on the tube. The new shows are a dedicated flagellant's dream material, each more painful than the last, but some reruns bear revisiting. If one is truly bored, one can always count the days till that final yadda-yadda-yadda gets de-claimed on *Seinfeld* May 14.

Speaking of comedy that isn't funny, I was watching my favorite not-quite-out-of-the-closet (perhaps the door simply isn't wide enough?) queen Louie Anderson a few nights ago hosting *Comedy Showcase* on NBC. I love Louie, who is smart, hilarious, and one of the few male comedians with really good politics. He doesn't choose the line-up of comics on the show, however, and I am reasonably certain that he would have axed some of the material on this outing.

Call me politically correct, but some things are beyond the realm of humor. Don't tell me Holocaust or racial jokes. I was totally appalled when Bill Maher joked about the massacre of girls in Jonesboro, Arkansas last month. And I guess too many of my friends have died for me to find HIV/AIDS something to guffaw over. Thus I found myself hissing at the box when several featured comedians incorporated AIDS jokes into their routines. Somehow I think Ray James and J.R. Kavlin would find it less amusing were it their names embroidered on a quilt panel instead of a comedy marquee.

HIV also made a rather disturbing appearance on the ultra-hyped midseason debut of *Push* last week on ABC. A night of reckless passion leads weeping girl to confront boy. She tells him she is leaving school and "so sorry." Boy asks if she is pregnant. Girl holds head in hands and sobs that she is HIV-positive. Boy looks traumatized. End of scene. No further development necessary. As Cordelia would say on *Buffey*: "Eeww!"

Push has been targeted at the *Melrose Place* crowd (*Melrose* skipped April and May and went right to season finale last week en route to Heather Locklear's baby shower). *Push* is a vehicle by the *Melrose* team about a slew of buffed college athletes going for Olympic gold. It has lots of T & A, great visuals, stunning editing, bad acting, too many women with dyed hair, and the usual fantasy-based plotting essential to any show by Aaron Spelling and/or on Fox. (Note to the writers: female Olympic gymnasts do not have breast implants — or even breasts

— nor are they usually old enough to go out after dark, let alone bed the coach by choice.) Teasers for subsequent episodes allude to a possible gay story line (well, buff boys, spandex, sweat, locker rooms — just ask George Michael). So stay tuned.

All year round

Unlike prime time, daytime never reruns (unless one counts characters returning from the dead) and the plots move along all year (with varying degrees of believability). One of the most compelling recent story lines on the soap *One Life to Live* ended with a Wagnerian conflagration (replete with an exceptional scoring of Brahms' Requiem) in which all the Cramer women — Dorian, Blair, Cassie and Kelly — had their secrets revealed.

Unfortunately, one of those was that abusive and obsessive governess Charlotte Stonecliffe had been hiding — and protecting — the presumed-dead matriarch of

Clan Cramer, Sonya. Some of us could tell where this tale was headed, but were still sorry to see the best-written and best-acted daytime soap lower itself to that tired basic instinct. Dorian tells Miss Stonecliffe, "You and my mother [Sonya] were the real couple in this house," decoding the encoded. When Sonya is killed for real, rather than desert the woman she had adored and protected all her life, Miss Stonecliffe locks the door to their room and in a Mrs. Danvers moment sets the place ablaze, cradling her beloved's body amidst their funeral pyre.

This ending to an otherwise highly satisfying story line managed to combine lesbian murder (Sonya had killed Mr. Cramer and attempted the murders of two of her daughters as well as her granddaughter, Cassie) with the classic end granted lesbians on film: suicide. As the French say, the more things change, the more they remain the same. ▼

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Lorna Luft

◀ Arts cover

her own natural tastefulness colors the narrative of her book just as it has curbed her creativity on stage. Remember her angst-free Adelaide, as placid as Lorna herself.

Even so, Lorna's book is chock-full of sensation with a capital S and three exclamation points — the kind of sensation that needs the old-fashioned and currently proscribed excesses of gay journalism to make its point: Sensational!!! *Me and My Shadows* tells sad and horrific tales of life with Judy, with an adolescent Lorna forced to play nursemaid, playmate, co-dependent, and chief warden of the loony bin to her tragically drug-riddled mother. And it spills the beans on Liza to the extent that they can't be put back in the bottle: tales of the "intervention" masterminded by Lorna which got Liza to the Betty Ford Clinic. The book follows the sisters during the 1970s, scrambling for cocaine while carousing at Studio 54 and similar louche

watering holes in Europe.

Ancient myths

However, Lorna doesn't think she's out to shock, and is protective of her family throughout, justifying behavior whenever possible, and correcting ancient myths and misinformation about her loved ones. "There's been so many books written about my family," she explained when we talked by telephone last week, "but none of those authors were there. None of them knew what it was like. And this is my story. I wanted to tell what happened to me. Another reason I wrote the book is that there are a lot of people out there living with someone in their family who has an addiction problem, and I wanted to tell them it's okay to take care of yourself."

But why, then, is Lorna so indiscreet about family matters, while elsewhere withholding her punches? Her treatment of the book's various personages is decidedly unequal. The answer may lie in the traditions of Al-Anon, the substance abuse program which Lorna has attended for 13



Lorna Luft

years. Like born-again Christians, many 12-steppers feel compelled to testify. However, the program's traditions also forbid the teller from naming others, and it's hard to do a tell-all book when you can't violate someone's anonymity. This rule puts Lorna in a tizzy. Who and what can she allow herself to label?

A tip-off to her problem with labels comes early in the book, when she calls the drag queens and female impersonators who "do" her mother "cross-dressers" — and won't they just be cross when they read *that* label? When I inquired how much of the tour, including an upcoming appearance at A Different Light Bookstore, was aimed at a gay readership, Lorna lost the question altogether as she stumbled through her reply.

"I don't think it's aimed at it ... it's aimed at bookstores," Lorna bumbled. "I have to tell you, I have a great problem with labels. You know, people are people, and so bookstores are bookstores. It doesn't matter that a bookstore is a gay bookstore, a straight bookstore. As long as I sell books, I don't care."

A more delicious example of Lorna's inability to name came with possibly the book's most surprising revelation — that she attempted an affair with Barry Manilow.

"I have always assumed he was gay," I said.

"I never assumed anything," she declared defensively. "And I wouldn't identify anyone as gay or straight, I just don't do that. I would never say anything about anybody's personal life that I don't know for a fact."

I wondered how close a friend could she have been, if she didn't know such a basic fact.

"Well, that's not my business. My business is that he's my friend."

"It may be your business," I prodded, "in explaining why your crush on him led to friendship instead of romance."

"You know," Lorna replied disingenuously, "I never even

thought of that."

"I understand your hesitancy to label anybody," I said, "but being called gay does not demean a person."

"Yes," Lorna agreed, "but if they want to label themselves, if they want to come out ..."

"Did he ask you not to say he was gay?"

"I never even talked to him," said Lorna. And so the mystery of Barry Manilow remains unresolved.

It seems that while Judy, Liza, and Lorna lived and worked in environments teeming with homosexuals, and were comfortable with them as people, they remained oblivious to actual facts of sexuality. This may explain why all of them pursued, and even married gay men; they were merely unaware that such intimate friends were not suitable as lovers.

Sisters' rift

Finally, what of the rumored rift between the sisters? It's a fact Lorna acknowledges, but wouldn't you be miffed if your sister wrote about you, as Lorna does about Liza on the book's second-to-last page, "Her personal disaster with Victor/Victoria and a string of canceled concerts have an eerily familiar ring. She is not yet willing to take responsibility for her life ... [and] has made a decision I cannot support, so I have chosen to live my life without her."

Well, bite me. Not merely holier-than-thou, this stance is at least uncharitable to the woman who financed Lorna's early career. It's also priggish — so cool, so calm, so off-with-her-head. Why, in the face of Liza's rather tasteful silence on family matters, is Lorna peddling this book's confection of sensation, survival and obvious one-upmanship? She'll tell you about the envy she suffered, the middle-sister travail, the identity she fought for. But she's sold the film rights to her book; there will be a television miniseries next year. With offers to perform scarce, the substantial dough she's making as author and producer is important.

"Do you have a preference for acting or singing?" I asked as a last question, and she leveled with me.

"Honey," she said, "I have a preference for working." ▼

Lorna Luft appears at A Different Light Bookstore, 489 Castro St., Monday, April 20 at 7:30 p.m. Call 431-0891.

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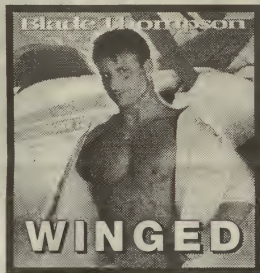
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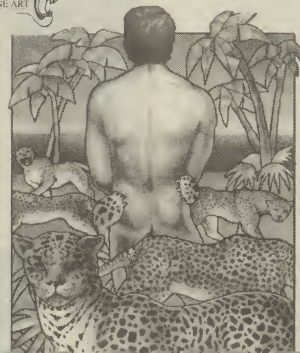
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ARTS

SF Symphony

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to dust off the Victorian melodrama while still maintaining pace and interest. A quartet of mostly fine soloists and Vance George's spectacular SFS Chorus joined with the sensibly-seated orchestra (divided strings, cellos on the left) to make an overwhelming effect.

The central role of Elijah was particularly well-sung by bass-baritone John Relyea. His impressive good looks and impassioned delivery matched the tempera-

ment of the angriest prophet. Tenor Jerry Hadley is a local and national favorite for good reason; his stage presence and operatic range are always impressive. While he often sounded close to strain, he nevertheless fulfilled his parts with gratifying pitch.

The soprano Christine Brewer was less perfect but appealing, and mezzo Marietta Simpson displayed a lovely tone. Special mention must be given boy soprano Brandon Eugene Campanile and cellist Margaret Tait for their brief but exquisite contributions.

Mild impression

The prior week was not as successful. Stanislaw Skrowaczewski has been guesting with the San Francisco Symphony since 1961, and his visits have never been less than adequate. To say that he has made a strong impact, however, would be an exaggeration.

His most recent concerts paired him with violinist Pinchas Zukerman. The two might have created a big evening with an interesting concert bill. Unfortunately, Zukerman was not at the top of his form, and the program never fully ignited.

Edward Elgar's Violin Concerto in B minor, Opus 61 is a noble work, and the composer admitted his soul was in it. A good performance requires a soloist equipped

with technique and temperament; a sage but passionate nature. Anyone who has encountered Nigel Kennedy's recent recording of the piece will know what I mean.

Like Kennedy, Pinchas Zukerman has recorded the concerto twice, showing not only his identification with the composer's magnificent outpouring, but also his commitment. It was surprising, therefore, to find him sounding rather tentative and not as sweetly tuned as we have come to expect.

Everyone has an off night, and a lot of the general haziness could be blamed on Skrowaczewski's pedestrian support. The concert began promisingly with a carefully sculpted Prelude and Liebestod from Wagner's *Tristan und Isolde*.

The sonorous yearnings and heavy breathing of the legendary lovers did not cast the usually ecstatic spell, however, and that set the tone for the rest of the program.

The Symphony No. 1 in F minor, Opus 10 by Dmitri Shostakovich offered the guesting leader a chance to show off a little, as the score is a young man's genius attempt to shock and delight his elders. There are wonderful signals of future greatness on every page, but it was written by a teenager and can be annoying and vulgar, even as it amazes.

Skrowaczewski was suitably prepared, and the orchestra played with panache, but the symphony was ragged at times, not a satisfying close to a disappointing night. ▼

David Leavitt

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Italy, and I love living in Europe," he insists. "I'm very glad to have London and Paris as easily accessible as they are. When I'm in the States, I usually go to my dad's in Los Angeles, or we go to Mark's parents in Florida. But the life that I've given up really is the New York one. I do not mind not being in New York. There's no place in the world that makes me so nervous. In New York, especially as a writer, you're so in the thick of a kind of literary cesspool. There's so much gossip and so much *movimento*, as the Italians say. For me, it creates an atmosphere that's just very difficult to write in."

Movimento?

"It means 'movement,'" Leavitt explains, "but it has a slightly different sense. It suggests everybody running back and forth in different directions. A little bit of chaos."

Leavitt is also escaping the petty jealousies and dislike of his work that many gay writers voice at gatherings thrown by such organizations as The Publishers Triangle.

"Well, there's really nothing I can do about it," he admits. "I mean, I guess the thing is I live so far from the literary world now, and I keep so much of a distance from it by and large, that it doesn't affect my personal life in the way that it would if I were living in New York. See, if someone hates me and I'm there, I'm sort of constantly having to avoid that person. Then it's a problem. But if I'm here, when somebody hates me and I don't know who that person is, it's much less of a problem. See what I mean."

Anyone specific, like Larry

Kramer?

"Larry and I basically get along well, though he kind of periodically turns on me. We had a little fracas when he didn't like something I read at this AIDS and Literature seminar in Key West. He thought I was writing too much about sex, but then Felice Picano says I don't write enough about sex. I sort of have given up listening to them. Living abroad has made it easier to just write without really being affected by other people's opinions or jealousies or dislikes or fondnesses or whatever."

Leavitt backlash

Some of the Leavitt backlash might stem not merely from a dislike for his prose, but from the fact that every straight national book critic will review the latest Leavitt opus. He has a crossover readership and respect, one that isn't there for other authors, such as Patricia Nell Warren.

"For her books, there probably isn't," Leavitt laughs. "I remember talking about this with Ed White, and he was telling me that when *A Boy's Own Story* was released in America, it was reviewed as a gay novel; whereas in England, it was reviewed as a novel about adolescence. That really hit home for me, because it emphasized to me the fact that this whole category of gay fiction is pretty much an American phenomenon."

"Living in Europe, I'm more and more aware of that than ever before. For example in France, it's a big issue of debate whether there is such a thing as gay literature. Most writers, including most gay writers, furiously contend that such a thing does not exist. They're offended by the idea that they will be categorized in that way... I feel that in the States, I'm in both categories." ▼

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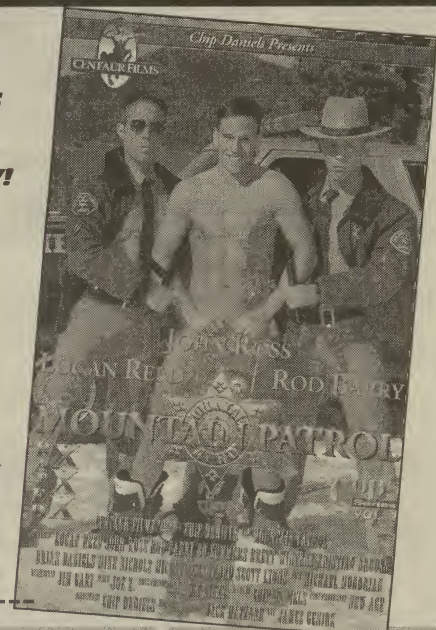
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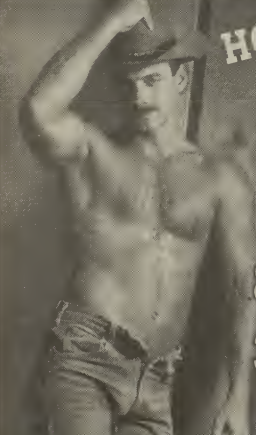
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Gary Virginia tops again

by Mister Marcus

At the annual Golden Dildeaux Awards put on by the Golden Gate Guards at the Eagle last Saturday night, April 11, former Mr. San Francisco Leather Gary Virginia reaped yet another accolade. He was named Golden Boy for 1997, which translates into "best all-around sex partner." For a man who was married for several months, just became single, and is now dating another title holder, this came as a surprise to both the ex and the current objects of Mr. Virginia's lust, uh, affection! Would Mr. "Ho" tell a lie?

The Eagle patio was jammed with nominees, presenters, previous winners and persons with inquiring minds. The biggest disappointment was that the winner of the Dick of Death award, David Kapp, was nowhere to be found. And there was no sweep by any one person like there was last year. Andy Anderson, the jock/leather/all-around dude, won the Sliver Lips Award and the Leap Frog Award. He tied with A.L. Allen in the Golden Globes and Cob Web categories — a paradoxical combination to be sure. Rick Lubrano, who scored big last year, took away two of the awards to make it a three-way tie. Rick won Paper Wedding Dress and Size Queen honors.

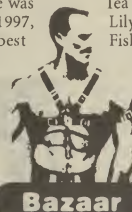


Mr. D.C.-Eagle Wayne Nesbitt will be among the IML hopefuls on Memorial Day weekend.

Miranda von Stockhausen and Art Tomaszewski were flawless as the emcees, each interjecting their own unique brand of humor into the proceedings. There were a million laughs throughout the extravaganza. Danny Williams managed to wreck the audience with his right-on, acerbic, albeit truthful, recollections; he left them howling.

R&B recording artist Toni experienced microphone problems but carried on like a trouper. In a last-minute substitution, Suzie Wong performed a "romantic" number and received polite applause for her efforts. Just before the final award was announced, former Emperor Brian Benamati managed to warm up the crowd with two upbeat numbers. He then donated his \$40 in tips to the "cause," making it a grand total of \$500 for the Rita Rocket Sunday Brunches at SF General Hospital's AIDS Ward. It was festive night in spite of the cool weather.

With no further ado, here are the other winners! Punchboard award: Pushy Phyllis. Top of the Year: Jesus Martinez. Nature Boy: Chris Ward. Golden Arm: Russell Libby. Best Male Performance by a Female Impersonator: Donna Sachet. Voyeur of the Year: T.J. Istvan. Prince of Piss: David Meyer. Tea Room Commando: Tiger Lily. Divine Miss M: Peter Fiske. Best Female Performance by a Male Impersonator: Suzie Wong. Cocksucker of the Year: Mike Spencer.



Bazaar

Hey, it was a fun and campy night. Congratulations to the Golden Gate Guards for another sterling evening. And remember, people are watching you and your indiscretions. You could be a winner next year! Watch for your name and deeds of derring-do in this space!

Sash rash dash

Meanwhile, the sash rash rush for American Brotherhood Weekend titles (three in all), International Mr. Leather and now International Mr. Drummer are going full steam ahead. Yes, in spite of the silly gossip circulating, *there will be a Mr. Drummer contest in 1998*. It's scheduled to be held at the Russian Center on Saturday, Sept. 26. So stop the rumor-mongering already!

On Saturday night, April 4, at the Garage bar, Norfolk's Knighthawks MC staged the first-ever Mr. Virginia Drummer competition. The naval aircraft carrier, The Roosevelt, docked there that same night and dumped nearly 2,000 horny men off for "diversion." The town, the bars and the contest were wall-to-wall.

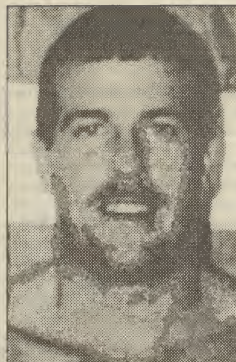
Frank Nowicki emceed the event in his usual splendid way, and when it was all over, a hunky bodybuilder, Raleigh, N.C.'s Tom Robinson, took the title. The first runner-up was John Krolebin, and the second runner-up was Brad Gatewood, both of Norfolk. Mr. Robinson will compete for the Mr. Mid-Atlantic Drummer title to be decided in Baltimore later this year. I am still waiting for photos.

Let me correct myself here regarding the American Brotherhood Weekend. The producers are Roger Fleming (not Able), Jim Cobb and Vern Stewart. The contest will be held at the PunchLine comedy club in Washington, D.C., next weekend, and tickets are going fast. Sorry about that, Mr. Cobb!

The first regional Mr. Drummer contest is taking place at the Dallas Eagle on Saturday, May 16. Contestants from New Orleans, Little Rock, Oklahoma City, Dallas, Houston and Austin will be participating. That Mark Frazier could sell sand in a desert!

Homo on the range

Another record crowd at the Powerhouse last Thursday, April 9, for the Mr. August 1999 Bare Chest Calendar contest. Five contestants faced judges Kevin Sims, Art Tomaszewski and the Saucy Aussie, Kym Whittington. That terrorizing trio put them through the usual paces. Perry Brandon became the latest calendar cutie, and Steven Lopez copped the runner-up spot. Mr. September will



Mr. Philadelphia Leather '98 Danny Clougherty will compete for the IML title in Chicago.

be chosen on Thursday, April 23, with a different emcee doing the honors this particular time.

Hey, next Sunday, April 19, Leather Daddy XV Patrick Batt will stage his big benefit, "Spring Fling," at the Eagle. The bash features an \$8 beer/soda bust, prizes for dinners, gift certificates, a Gay Pride flag and get this — a \$250 cash prize raffle (and you don't have to give the cash back!). Don't miss this one! The Mr. SF Leather Contest Committee will present checks to this year's beneficiaries: the AIDS Emergency Fund and LYRIC. The beer bust is a benefit for AIDS Benefits Counselors, and the food will be catered by Harvey's. Be there!

Getting serious

As many of you may already know, there are plans under way for another March on Washington in 2000. Allegedly (the key word here), it is being pushed by the Human Rights Campaign Fund and Reverend Troy Perry's Metropolitan Community Church. Personally, I don't know what is hoped to be accomplished by yet another march.

At the last march (and in previous marches), the leather community was encouraged to participate. Thousands expended immense sums for travel, hotel and food expenses. When it came down to the actual march, the leather contingent was less than welcome. Thousands of us waited in the stifling, humid weather of our nation's capital for hours and hours. The organizers were upset because leather people refused to "assimilate" and discard their leathers, whips, chains and expressions of what the leather/SM community is all about. The call to start marching never came, so the leather contingent broke ranks and proceeded to march anyway. Organizers were appalled. They didn't want the media to see us. Brawls, arguments and debate marred what was supposed to be a day in the sun for leather pride —

next page ►



Perry Brandon won the August 1999 spot on the BCC at the Powerhouse April 9.

'I Think I Do' Screwball this

by Gary Morris

The blasphemous press notes for this film call it a "screwball comedy with a modern twist," even going so far as to compare its leading lovebirds, Bob (Alexis Arquette) and Brendan (Christian Maelen), to Katharine Hepburn and Cary Grant, with a "Bellamy-esque" (Ralph Bellamy, that is) soap opera star thrown in as the third member of the triangle. Publicity flaks are, of course, paid for their flights of fancy, but comparing this mostly lame film to *Bringing Up Baby* or *Philadelphia Story* and writer-director Brian Sloan to Howard Hawks or George Cukor surely approaches libel.

The film opens with a look at the lives of an ensemble of *Real World* wannabes, six students at George Washington University living in an apartment off campus. There's Bob, who's secretly in love with Brendan, who's being chased by Sarah, whose best friend is Beth. Boyfriend and girlfriend Matt and Carol complete this promising picture of a loving group of pals engaging in the activities that occupy most college students' time: gossiping, getting drunk and stoned, fucking each other or trying to, and having secret homosexual crushes. The latter proves to be a pivotal event for poor, pouty Bob: in one of the few scenes in the film that rings true, Bob and Brendan are wrestling, and Bob finds himself pinned under a suddenly nervous Brendan. The completion of what's hinted at here occurs during a drunken Valentine's Day party when, during an impromptu fight, Bob makes a pass at Brendan in front of the others.



Christian Maelen and Alexis Arquette in *I Think I Do*.

Brendan reacts by punching Bob in the jaw, apparently ending the friendship.

Three years pass, and Bob now appears to be a typical, modern, well-adjusted homosexual. He's a soap opera writer living with the star of the show, Sterling Scott (Tuc Watkins). When Bob's friends Matt and Carol decide to get married, Sterling decides he and Bob should, too. Bob's resistance to this idea coincides with the re-entry of Brendan onto the scene. During the wedding party, the two of them have a discreet make-out scene in the bathroom. Brendan, now a teacher in Boston, is now officially gay and ready to help Bob live out his fantasies, though Bob has his doubts.

There are certainly comic possibilities in this material, but director Sloan simply isn't up to the task. His idea of humor is to have a character show shock by falling backwards, which is more *Three*

Stooges than *Theodora Goes Wild*. The dazzling dialogue one expects from screwball comedy never materializes, and the actors, with one exception, aren't skilled enough to create characters that weren't credibly written. *I Think I Do* attempts a few half-hearted satirical swipes at subjects like weddings, politics, and soap operas, but there's little conviction here.

There is one compensating element that makes this dreary film watchable (barely), and that's the performance of Christian Maelen as Brendan. Besides being easy on the eyes, Maelen's obviously an intelligent actor worthy of much better projects. While Alexis Arquette (who looks like one of the Hapsburgs these days) spends most of his time looking befuddled and letting his oft-remarked vast lower lip do his acting, Maelen casually breathes life into a character consumed by his need for another man. ▼

Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

yeah, that's right, celebrating our lifestyle.

Now, the rhetoric has begun again. Why should we spend our hard-earned money to attend a weekend where expensive dinners, banquets and dances shut out the average person - leather and otherwise? Let the A-gays at-

tend and protest to lily-white America that we deserve our rights and a seat at the table. Why should the leather tribe support their agenda only to be treated like second-class citizens by our own march leaders/organizers?

Of course, there are those who will march anyway. Far be it from me to tell anyone what they should do. But know that I will not be in their number, and I am not alone in this decision. With all

due respect to Reverend Troy Perry, who is a friend of mine and also a leather person, I will not assimilate by marching in a coat and tie and denying a lifestyle I have championed for over 30 years!

I am not urging a boycott. However, organizers will have to offer compelling reasons why we, the leather community, should participate. It is your decision - and yours alone - to make. I am sitting this one out. ▼

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Thursday, April 16

Bears of SF present proceeds from Bear Rendezvous at 1930 at the Ramada Plaza (8th & Market), with an auction preview at 1900 and a dessert treat. The money goes to LYRIC, WORLD and NAMC. Always a stunning event.

Constantines MC's beer/soda bust at Daddy's, 2000 to 2300, \$7. Benefits Rita Rocket's Sunday brunches at SFGH.

Exiles of SF's rope bondage workshop at the Women's Building. Doors open 1930-2015; workshop ends at 2230. \$3 members/\$5 others. Call 415-487-5170.

Weekend, April 17-18

Mr. Pistons Leather extravaganza in Long Beach, with a meet and greet on Friday and contest on Saturday. International Mr. Leather Kevin Wayne is the special guest judge. The soiree is sponsored by the Orange County Leather Assembly.

Saturday, April 18

Bears of SF beer/soda bust at the Lone Star Saloon, \$6. Benefits the BOSF Insurance Fund.

Sunday, April 19

Leather Daddy XV Patrick Batt's "Spring Fling"

beer/soda bust at the Eagle, 1500-1800. See column for details.

"I'm Still Alive" birthday party for former International Mr. Drummer Woody Bebout in St. Louis. Big doings, much hoopla! Send your greetings by calling 314-367-5312.

Wednesday, April 22

Leather Buddies' April party at 933 Harrison. You know the rules: leather, latex, uniforms - definitely boots. No chifon. No cologne. Your pits will be sniffed. For more info or details, call 863-HEAD.

The deadline is May 1 for Cal Eagles' one-day run to Nevada City (May 9-10), which features a \$65 price tag. Call 415-267-0560 or e-mail: CalEagles@BlackIris.com.

Weekend, April 24-26

American Brotherhood Weekend in Washington, D.C., to pick American Leatherman, Leatherwoman and Leatherboy. Write ABW, P.O. Box 5130, Utica, NY 13505 or e-mail: AbleProd@aol.com. Don't wait! Do it now!

Regiment of the Black & Tans' "Maneuvers '98" spectacular, with uniform functions at various places in the LA area. Weekend cost: \$40. Contact the B & T at P.O. Box 291157, LA, CA 90029 or e-mail: Regiment@PrimeNet.com. Always fun!

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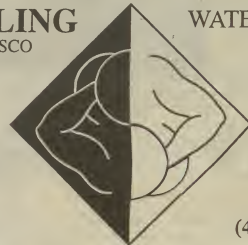
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OUT & ABOUT

Calendare

by Eric M. Rose

Local lyricists

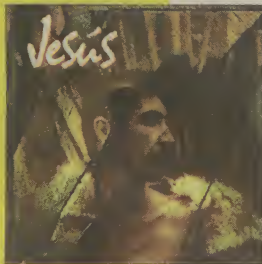
Out of the gay music scene here in San Francisco come two new albums by Veronica Klaus and Jesús Guillén, both of whom have been singing at various venues around town. Jesús Guillén's self-entitled album, *Jesús*, offers a pleasant eclectic sound that one could describe as gay world music. Jesús, who just performed at the Latino/a AIDS Theater Festival, sings in Spanish although the sound of the album is more along the lines of folk music. The guitar is the prominent instrument on the album, with melodies that

are beautiful in their simplicity and which bring the voice of the artist to the fore of the music. And it's the singer's voice that makes this album a success. With a gentle and assured voice, Jesús whispers his way through all 14 songs on the album, the majority of which are love ballads. There is a very romantic feel to the album, although the excessive background choruses aren't quite background enough.

For those of us who were fortunate enough to be at Veronica Klaus' CD release party last Thursday, it's obvious why no CD collection can be complete

without her new album *All I Want*. Granted, the consensus seems to be that Veronica is at her best when she is belting out her jazzier songs that have a little more of that Klaus edge to them, but she also holds her own through several romantic torch songs. Veronica's music provides everything but the bearskin rug in front of the fireplace, and I found this to be put-me-in-the-mood music. Although Veronica is best when heard (and seen) live, where her personality and stage presence shine, she has captured a little piece of herself on CD for her fans, old and new alike.

If you're one of those people who never seems to make it out to the live music scene, but you've been wondering what's been going on, these two CDs should bring you up to snuff and perhaps even inspire you to go and check out some of the wealth of talent in our local music scene. And with local groups (for some reason Blue Peridot comes to mind) finally getting their due, in both CDs and performance venues, now is definitely a good time to catch some of these rising stars while they're still in our little corner of the universe. ▼



Fri

Ballistic Femme

Marie Cartier's one-woman show: the wacky world of butch/femme. \$10-\$13. Fri.-Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 2pm; thru 5/3. New Conservatory Theatre, 25 Van Ness. 861-8972.

Combat!

An American Melodrama, John Fisher's play on gay men and women in the US military during WWII. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm, also 3pm Sat.; thru 4/18. \$21-24. Victoria Theatre, 2961 16th St. 621-7797.

DanceNet

Benefit concert of SF choreographers and musicians, incl.

Chris Black, Robert Moses Kin, SQUAD, more. \$15-\$25. 8pm thru Sat. ODC, 3153 17th St. 863-9834.

Don't Get Up

A Musical History of the Opera Queen, Sean Owens' new play. \$16-\$20.

Thurs.-Sat., 8pm; thru 4/25. Exit Theatre, 156 Eddy. 437-2349.

Full Frontal Rudity

Latin Hustle's comedy exploring queer Latino issues. \$10-\$12. Fri.-Sat., 8:30pm; Sun., 5pm. Thru 4/19. Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St. 861-5079.

Joseph Leonardi

Airspace presents *Once*, a queer creation myth in rhyming verse. 8:30pm. Jon Sims Center, 1519 Mission. 554-0402.

Just Because We're Funny

Women of color comedy showcase with Charlene Tapia, Julia Jackson, Aundre The Wonderwoman, and emcee Monica Fields. \$10-\$15. 8pm. thru Sat.

Luna Sea, 2940 16th St., Ste. 200-2. 863-2989.

Late Night Live

Comedy showcase with David Mills and Bridget Schwartz; "English 101," with guests Michale Yaki, Loard Martin, Isador Allman. \$8. 10pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th. 861-7933.

Lines

Contemporary Ballet Alonzo King's acclaimed dance co. \$12-\$27.50. Fri.-Sat., 8pm; thru 4/19. Call for other dates and times. Yerba Buena Center, 700 Howard. 776-1999.

The Magdalen

Play presented by Inside Out Productions: exploring the Mary Magdalen, a woman with a past. \$12. Fri.-Sun., 8pm; thru 4/26. The Next Stage, Trinity Episcopal Church, Gough at Bush. 665-

7229.

Maleta Mulata

Campo Santo presents Jorge Ingacio Cortinas' play: a family caught up with the ghosts of their Cuban roots. \$9-\$14. Thur.-Sun., 8pm; thru 4/26. Intersection for the Arts, 446 Valencia. 626-3311.

My Castle's Rockin'

Rhodesa Jones stars as Jazz legend Alberta Hunter in Larry Parr's one-woman show. \$12-\$22. Wed.-Sun. thru 4/18. Call for times; tonight at 8pm. Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St. 861-5079.

New Wave City

Benefit for Home Away from Homelessness, featuring New Wave music of 70s and 80s.

Meyer and her company present nine works. \$12.50-\$22. Thur.-Sat., 8pm; thru 4/19. Theater Artaud, 450 Florida. 621-7797.

Sina Una

FAMA's Cross-cultural theatrical piece about pre-colonized Filipino society and its neighbors, including music, dance and drama. \$15. 7:30 thru Sat. SOMAR, 934 Bran-nan. 863-2631.

The Widow's Blind Date

Israel Horowitz' dramatic play. \$16-\$18. Thur.-Sat., 8pm; Sun, 7pm; thru 4/18. Actors Theatre, 533 Sutter. 296-9179.

Wondercon

Comic book arts convention,

the Balkan gypsies, Jews, Turks, Ukrainians, Russians, Georgians. \$13-\$17. Week-ends thru 4/25. Call for times, today at 3 & 8pm. Cowell Theater, Ft. Mason. 441-3687.

Deranged Durang

Four one act plays by Christopher Durang. \$5-\$7. 12am Sat., 5pm Sun.; thru 5/10. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Endangered Voices

Poetry and arts benefit for bilingual education, featuring June Jordan, Piri Thomas, Danza Axteca, more. \$10. 7pm. Brava Theater, York and 24th St. 243-9286 ext. 354.

Flash Family

SF Improv troupe celebrates 20th anniversary with 100% spontaneous theater, comedy, and song. \$12. 8:30pm Sat.; thru 5/9. Blue Bear Hall, Ft. Mason, Bldg. D. 885-5678 ext. 2.

Hoffa Lives & Accidents Happen

Solo performance comedy by Sabrina Alonso. \$6-\$10. 8pm

bar hosted by Skyy Vodka. \$3. 9pm-1am. Space, 1141 Polk. 674-1997.

Saturday Night Gay Comedy

Gay comics Kevin Avery, Mindy Dawn Friedman, Danny Williams. \$10. 10pm. Josie's, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Celebration!

"Star Salutes the Arts," benefit for Star Academy, incl. Marin Dance Theatre, Joanna Berman, Rene Mandel, wine and appetizers, silent auction, more. \$70. 6pm. Old Federal Reserve, 301 Battery. 456-8727.

Sun

Dignity

Dignity SF 25th Anniversary Founders Reception. Light food provided. 6:45pm. 7th Ave. Presbyterian Church, 1329 7th Ave. 681-2491.

In Our Image

"Queer Jewish Identity,"



"Flowers," by Andy Warhol, is part of the 20th Century Masterworks at Catherine Clark Gallery. See Tuesday.

\$15. 9pm-3am. Club Townsend, 177 Townsend. 675-LOVE.

Paisley for Brains

Musty Chiffon sings rock and roll selections from the 60s to the present. \$12-\$14. Thur.-Sun., 8pm; thru 4/26. Special dinner-theatre Fri.-Sat. at 6pm for \$30. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Peek Series 2

Benefit performance by the Robert Henry Johnson Dance Co. \$15-\$25. 8pm thru Sat. Rhythm & Motion Dance Studio, 2300 Market, Ste. 41. 626-6062.

Riding From Normal

Mark Kenward's new solo adventure. \$8-\$16. Thur.-Sat., 8:30pm; thru 5/9. The Marsh, 1062 Valencia. 826-5750.

SF Ballroom Dance Theatre

Artistic Director Roberta

featuring Japanese animation, movies, celebrities, Harvey Awards. \$12-\$35. Thru Sun. Call for times, today from 12pm-7pm. Oakland Convention Center, 550 10th St. 464-1120.

Sat

Amanda Amazon

and the Dancing Gingers in a drag extravaganza. \$20. 8:30pm. Club Finocchio, 506 Broadway. (707) 884-1224.

Bill Luoma

Hawaii-based writers read from their new work. \$7. 8pm. New Langton Center, 1246 Folsom. 626-5416.

Black Sea Treasures

Westwind Int'l Folk Ensemble presents: music and dance of

Sat.; thru 5/2. Jon Sims Center, 1519 Mission. 282-9937.

Int'l Beer Festival

15th annual benefit featuring live music, food, and unlimited beer tastings. \$30. 8pm-11pm. Ft. Mason Center. 346-0820.

MFA Graduate Exhibit

SFSU Art Dept. showcases work of 8 graduating artists. Mon.-Sat., 12pm-4pm; thru 5/20. Art Dept. Gallery, A&I Bldg., SFSU, 1600 Holloway. 338-6535.

Queer & Kinky

Danger: Art of San Francisco's Leather/SM/Kink Worlds. Free. Sat.-Sun. 2pm-5pm; thru 5/31. Gay and Lesbian Historical Society, 973 Market, Suite 400. 777-5455.

Satellite 003

Benefit for HEAR, incl. music, art installation, video,

panel featuring Supervisor Leslie Katz, Jonathan Katz, Rabbi Jane Litman. Free. 10:30am. Notre Dame Plaza, 347 Dolores. 861-6932.

Jaméz Smith & Thomas Hughes

Reads from his poetry at 1pm, followed by open mic reading; Thomas Hughes reads from *Rainbow Room* at 3:30pm. Free. A Different Light, 489 Castro. 431-0891.

Live Jazz

Free admission. 8pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Really Bad Poetry Slam

Shouting and babbling of the worst poetry ever heard. \$25 first prize. Free. 4pm. Books Inc, 2275 Market. Call 864-6777 to sign up.

Tibet Day

Featuring Tibetan cuisine,



"El Niño" exhibit features emerging Bay Area Chicano/Latino artists. See Wednesday.

lectures, slide shows, panel discussions, live performance. \$5. 10am-4pm. Ft. Mason Conference Center Bldg. A. (510) 548-1271.

Mon 20

The Andrew Sisters

"The Andrew Sisters Hollywood Canteen," cabaret starring Mark Sargent, Flynn De Marco, and Trauma Flintstone with Connie Champagne, Mark Johnson, David Bicha, DJ Chicken. \$5. 9pm. Cafe DuNord, 2170 Market.

Affra Singers' Talent Showcase

Comedy and song featuring Linda Tillery and the Cultural Heritage Choir, Scott Silverman, twelve vocal superstars, more. \$15. 8:30pm & 10:30pm. Mr. E's Jazz Club, 2284 Shattuck, Berkeley. (510) 848-2009.

El Niño

Exhibit of emerging Bay Area Chicano/Latino artists, incl. John LeAños, Rick Sanchez, Mariana Tres, more. Wed.-Sun., 12pm-6pm; thru 5/17. Galeria de la Raza, 2857 24th St. 826-8009.

Gay Comedy Open Mic
MC Suzy Berger, up-and-coming comic talent, performers sign up by phone. \$5. 8pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Lorna Luft

Me and My Shadows: A Family Memoir. Judy Garland's daughter tells of living with the legend. Free. 7:30pm. A Different Light, 489 Castro. 431-0891.

Order & Chaos

Exhibit featuring the found object constructs of Will Marino, the encaustic paintings of Hal Reid. Wed.-Sat., 11am-7pm; Sun., 12pm-6pm. Thru 5/3. Lawrence L. Hultberg, 544 Hayes. 861-8251.

Waiting for Beckett

"A Portrait of Samuel Beckett," documentary on renowned playwright. Free. 7:30pm. Yerba Buena Center Media Screening Room, 701 Mission. 346-6456.

Tues 21

20th Century Masterworks

Exhibit of work by 39 artists, incl. Lichtenstein, Picasso, Matisse. Tues.-Fri., 10:30am-5:30pm; Sat., 11am-5:30pm.

Catherine Clark Gallery, 49 Geary, 2nd Floor. 339-1439.

Gross Indecency:

"The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde," Moisés Kaufman's play. Tues.-Sun., extended thru 5/24. Call for times; tonight at 8pm. \$25-39. Theatre on the Square, 450 Post. 433-9500.

Keeping Critical

Video screening of *Chalk and discussion* with director Rob Nilsson. \$3-\$5. 8pm. Intersection for the Arts, 446 Valencia. 626-2787.

Open Mic Music

New ongoing showcase for singers, musicians, and dancers; hosted by Retts, the original fashion dyke. \$5. 8pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Relationship as Spiritual Practice

Q-Spirit presents lecture with Karin Carrington. \$10 sliding scale. 7:30pm. St. Francis Lutheran Church, 152 Church. 281-9377.

Silent Blizzard

"The Ballad of Machiko," solo Butoh dance by Judith Kajiwara, with Kotoist Shoko Hikage. \$10.50-\$12.50. 8pm. Noh Space, 2840 Mariposa. 621-7797.

T.C. Huo

Reading from *A Thousand Wings*. Free. 7:30pm. A Different Light, 489 Castro. 431-0891.

Underground Visions

"An Exploration of Gender and Sexuality," a program of underground films presented by Cinematheque; including discussion with critic Jack Sargeant. Free. 7pm. August Coppola Theatre, A&B Bldg, SFSU, 1600 Holloway. 338-6507.

Wed 22

Abigail's Party

Aurora Theatre Co. presents Mike Leigh's new play: a low rent *Absolutely Fabulous* meets *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* \$18-\$25. Wed.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm. Thru 5/3. Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant Ave. (510) 843-4822.

Cioppino Benefit Dinner

Kelly Bennet presents Italian seafood dinner to benefit the California AIDS Ride 5. \$25. 6:30pm. St. Anne's Parish Church, 850 Judah. 437-9100.

Do I Hear a Waltz?

42nd Street Moon's concert

reading of "lost musical" by Stephen Sondheim and Richard Rogers. \$10-\$20. Wed.-Sun.; thru 5/3. Call for times; tonight at 8pm. New Conservatory Theatre, 25 Van Ness. 861-8972.

Echoes & Postcards

Variety revue by Tennessee ensemble, The Road Company. \$18. Wed.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm & 8pm. Thru 5/3. A Traveling Jewish Theatre, 2800 Mariposa. 399-1809.

The King and I

Marie Osmond stars in this Rogers and Hammerstein classic. \$19.50-\$67. Wed.-Sun.; thru 5/10. Call for times; tonight at 8pm. Golden Gate Theatre, 1 Taylor. 776-1999.

My Night With Reg

(Kevin Elyot's comedy: haunting tales of gay love and desire. \$10-\$20. Wed.-Sat. thru 5/16. Call for times; tonight at 8pm. New Conservatory Theatre, 25 Van Ness. 861-8972.

Shimmer

John O'Keefe's luminous story of a friendship between two adolescent boys. Wed.-Sat., 8:30pm; Sun., 3pm; thru 4/26. \$15-\$26. Magic Theatre, Bldg. D, Ft. Mason Center. 441-3687.

Thur 23

Big, Gay Imaginations!

Film shorts featuring Charles Losfon, Daven Gee, Ryan Rubio, more. \$5. 8pm. ATA, 992 Valencia. 824-3890.

Enchanted April

Small Press Traffic presents readings by Joseph Donahue and Ed Roberson. \$5. 7:30pm. New College Cultural Center, 776 Valencia. 437-3454.

Enrique

Performs new rock musical *Above and Beyond the Valley of the Ultra Showgirls*: a romp thru the seamy side of the rock music business. \$10. 9pm Thrus. thru 4/30. Trans-mission Theatre, 314 11th St. 861-6906.

Five

Stephen Peltó Dance Theatre's 5th anniversary concert. \$12-\$15. Thur.-Sat. at 8:30pm. Brady Street Dance Center, 60 Brady. 241-0111.

Gross National Product

Presents "Sex, Lies & Paula-Gate: or Yet Another Vast Right Wing Conspiracy," political lampoon by DC-based

group. \$20. Thur. at 8pm, Fri.-Sat. at 8pm & 10pm. Plush Room, 940 Sutter. 885-2800.

Kvetch

Teatro Shalom presents Steven Berkoss's comedy. \$12. Thur.-Sat., 8pm; thru 5/2. Exit Stage Left, 156 Eddy. 602-4387.

May Day iSi!

"227 iNo!," National Writer's Union poetry reading and speak out, including Piri Thomas, Jack Forbes, A.K. Black, more. \$3-\$5. 7:30pm. New College, 777 Valencia.

Not Garden

Stephen Petronio Dance Co. performs. \$15-\$25. Thur.-Sat., 8pm; Sun. 2pm. Yerba Buena Center, 700 Howard. 392-4400.

Turtle Island String Quartet

Chamber concert of string instruments. \$18. 8pm. Florence Gould Theater, Legion of Honor, 34th Ave. and Clement. 392-4400.

Unbound Spirit

Dance performance premieres by choreographers Sachiko Nakamura and Kimiko Guthrie-Kupers. \$12.50-\$16.50. Thur.-Sun. Call for times; tonight at 8pm. Theater Artaud, 450 Florida. 621-7797.

University Dance Theater

Annual spring concert, directed by Marni Thomas. \$10. Thrus.-Sun., thru 4/25. Call for times; tonight at 8pm. Zellerbach Playhouse, UC Berkeley. (510) 642-9925.

Waxworks

Network Theatre Co. presents a musical comedy mystery set in a wax museum. \$32.50-\$35. Wed.-Sun.; thru 5/31. Call for times; tonight at 8pm. Alcazar Theatre, 650 Geary. 441-4042.

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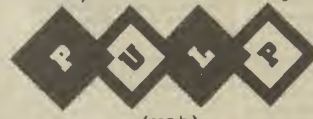
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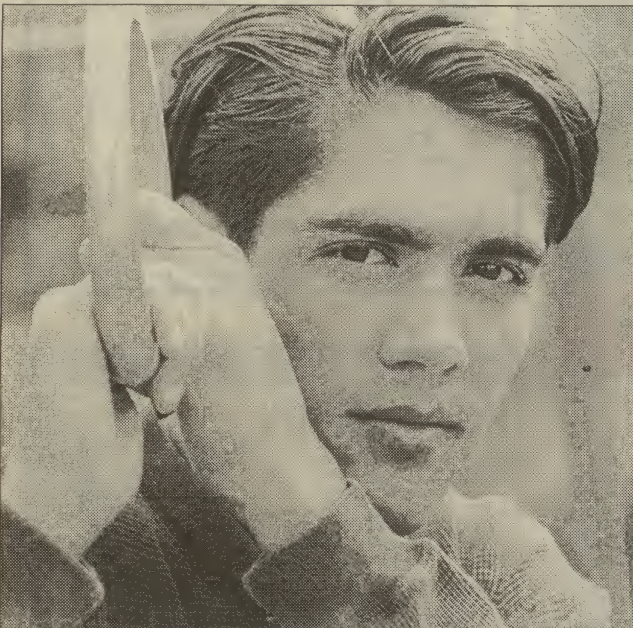
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PARTING GLANCES

From Fresno, 2/23, met on Market
under bridge. Hooked up, had the best time, you wanted to stay, I had to go. Need to see you again make it up to you I promise. Scott. ☎ 1700

38 Geary Inbound Wed 3/4 5-6pm
You blond in brown jacket; Me grey hair, dark grey jacket. We smiled a lot; You waved getting off at Franklin. I regret not following, being so shy. Call me. ☎ 1701

Len@Hollywood Bookstore 2/26
Thurs. You: tall, dark, handsome & on way to gym. Me: short dark, handsome. Had great time, would like more. Please call. ☎ 1702

Randy with stripped shirt
We met at the White Horse 3/14. We danced, talked and yet I was too shy to exchange phone #s. Dumb huh? Call me. ☎ 1703

BlowBuddies Fri 13th
You hooked up with my friend and I. We moved into a booth. I know your name. Would like to play again. Waved goodbye outside. Call. ☎ 1800

Palace Hotel SF
Noticed you in the lobby area hope you noticed me (3/18+19/98) I would like to hear from you. Bryan. ☎ 1801

ISO Kitty Glamour
Horny, hung, handsome Italian seeks companionship of the most beautiful Drag Queen in all of San Francisco. Please call soon. I want to offer marriage! ☎ 1900

Cute Asian gas station Castro
It was weekend night you filled gas at Castro. Had Honda we both saw each other you gave life you wanted to do "it". Looking for place, car, lost you. ☎ 1901

Quest Primary Care 3-20
You: Blond hair & beard, great blue eyes and smile wearing leather jacket. Me: Short brown hair & beard wearing green "Virgin" cap. Would love to meet you. Interested?? ☎ 1902

319 Wed #14 Bus Mission 10pm
You got off w/your friends at 30th st. couldn't follow. But let's do lunch & charge it as another expense- GAM ☎ 1903

My Place - 1 yr ago
You: Hunky, handsome man from Danville, VA. Me: Big white mustache, originally from NO. VA. Think about you often. Dinner? Date? ☎ 1904

3/26 Mike-this ones for you!
Met-Hole In The Wall. Then late last evening met in Castro. Thanks! To bad things didn't work out!-?. We would have had a really fine time! Ron Martinez. ☎ 1905

We've met B-4 saw you Fri 3/27
On Castro aft. 6. You came out of a car. Me: GBM black jacket we stared as companions shipped. I'd love to talk to you. ☎ 1906

Rainbow Grocery check-out 4/5
You: Light skinned Blk guy, beautiful eyes, w/White sweatshirt in checkout. Me: Latin/Asian guy w/Green sweatshirt and blue cap. Spoke briefly. You drove away in a green Honda. Coffee?? ☎ 2000

Tim at World Gym 4/14
We met in the Hot Room. Would like to have dinner with you. Patrick, the Asian guy. ☎ 2001

ISO: Brian H
Last saw you April 3rd. You caught my heart & hard-on. Please contact me ASAP. Would like to take you out on a date. Pls call soon! ☎ 2002

Blow Buddies and you used t-shirt
2/8 Unfortunately I saw and responded to your ad after your mailbox had closed. That handsome thing sure sounds familiar. Dinner is definitely a go. ☎ 2003

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

Black man seeks lover
I'm 41 HIV+, 170 lb, bearded. I'm into music & gardening. I'm looking for a loyal man whom I can share my life with. ☎ 1704

Everyone says I'm a great catch!
So why am I still single then? Handsome GWM 30s, HIV+, 12 years, T-cells 849 and rising. Seeking GBM top 20s-30s tall a plus. I am stable and secure emotionally and financially. ☎ 1705

GAM, 5'6", 125#, Seeking GWM
Between 20 to 37 y/o, with Blond hair and blue eyes. Would like to fuck and would like to be fucked. ☎ 1706

Nice guy seeks same
Nice looking young 50ish GWM successful, romantic, personable & fun. Emotionally & physically fit, N/S, HIV-. Seeks GWM (34-48). Have a heart, brain, like to cuddle. Be honest and know how to communicate. ☎ 1707

Breakfast in bed, East Bay
Late twenty something, tall & gym toned & handsome too! I'm seeking a friend first LTR. Be healthy, in shape & sweet, 20-35. Let's enjoy breakfast in bed. ☎ 1708

Sateen and Lace
GBM hot uncult top daddy 48 yrs. ISO GWM, bottom with hot tits who enjoys being in fem pants in bed. Lt drink, smoke & aroma OK. No drag or beads pls. Be 45-55, and under 5'10". ☎ 1709

38 Educated athletic HIV- GWM
Seeks similar. I'm 5'8", sexy, inexperienced with men but love teasing. Faithful, playful, love. You're smart successful. ☎ 1710

Coffee talk?
Attractive GAM, 26, 5'8", 160, professional into dancing up a storm, diverse foods and films. ISO GM 25-35, masculine, fit with sense of humor. Let's meet over latte! ☎ 1711

Be my man.
Charming Oakland boy, HIV+, 28, 5'7", seeking financially secure, tall, masculine, clean-cut, attractive man, 29-45, looking for outgoing, fun people to enjoy evenings and weekends. ☎ 1713

A few good men wanted
For friends and LTR by honest, slim, trim, GWM, 50, new to area. Into cuddling, walks, friendship, humor, travel? You be younger, HIV-, HWP, N/S, any race with brains/heart. ☎ 1714

European male (professional)
6'1", 190#, GWM, 37y/o top seeks GWM/Asian or Hispanic male for fun possible LTR. Must be same age or younger. My interests include, reading, W/D, hiking. ☎ 1715

Hot healthy young stud
18-40 sought to help develop rustic country mountain home. Friends first, possible partner or LTR later, lets talk! ☎ 1819

Asian male seeking friends
GAM, 38, 140, 5'7", well built, smooth. Like dining, theatre and outdoors. Seek W/M 25-38, good body for friends/ date & more? ☎ 1716

Massage partner wanted
30ish GAM seeks clean-cut GWM/GAM 30s-40s for mutual massage at your place. Preferably someone with massage table in SF. Looks unimportant, please be weight/height proportionate. ☎ 1717

Seeking darling, honey or baby
GAM, 38, 6'1", 170#, br/r, kissing, hugging, versatility, laughing, sharing, caring, swimming, hiking, nude massage, cooking, 8 wks. to optimum health. ☎ 1718

Asian men and Filipino
GWM, 6', 165 lbs. Desires Asian, aggressive, dominating and romantic to service you with my tongue for steady, long time sessions- up to 2-3 hours. ☎ 1719

I'm looking for a devoted
loyal man to share my life with. I live in a small cabin in Mendocino Co. ND NS NA ☎ 1818

Professor seeks pupil
British poet, children's writer, lecturer seeks obedient helpful student (18-25) for fun games, and education. ☎ 1816

Gay seeks Hombre for fun
I am GWM 30ish, good klg, energetic, and deaf guy seek to share entertainments and sports. I love weightlifting to stay fit. I love to share laughter and good food. Please no screaming femme, barfly, N/D, N/S. I am attracted to Homies with wolf howls. If you are reading up to this point, please call!! ☎ 1721

ISO best friend +
Discrete, well endowed, professional Blkm, 46, 5'6", 165#, ISO other discrete, well endowed versatile Blkm. 5'6"-6'4", weight proportionate to height. No fats, flams, or games. Only serious Blkm please!! ☎ 1722

Brown man seeks partner
I'm 41 HIV-, 170, 6'1". Born 6/6/1956. I'm into music, massage and gardening. I enjoy a simple lifestyle. ☎ 1802

Same sex identified man
Seeks same-for soul mate-trusting enough to share vulnerable intimate thoughts and quiet moments. Adventurous enough for total mutual body/soul exploration!! ☎ 1803

HIV+ Blk 5'10" 175#
Seeking friendship with health minded guy age range 35-55. I am attracted to men with lean bodies in fairly decent shape. ☎ 1804

Seeking HIV+ Eastbay top
Black, brown or deeply tan with mustache preferred. HIV+ bottom, 35, blue, brown, 6ft, 185, mustached smoker, wants to kickback and snuggle by fireplace-LTR with Capricorn or Virgo. ☎ 1805

Handsome HIV+ top
Funny GWM, 43, 5'10", 150, 7", uncult, br/r, nicotine-enhanced gym enthusiast seeks handsome, fit GWM under 42 for metropolitan dining and babylonian atrocities. ☎ 1806

35yo Latino needs romance
I'm goodlooking good body, 5'10", 168lbs enjoys quiettimes, movies, going out for fun adventures; needs goodlooking caucasian male stable and honest. ☎ 1807

Spring, rebirth, light, love + lust
Handsome, healthy, spiritual, HIV+ 50yo man of the world ISO very good-looking, charming, purposeful, young man who seeks true love + hot romantic sex. ☎ 1808

Shaved BI desert bear ISO mate
Me: 42, 6', 260#, HIV-, passionate, caring, affectionate, who likes movies, travel, outdoors adventure. ISO masculine male 30-50 with similar interest, medium build to take back to me desert den. ☎ 1809

Young attractive GWM seeks GAM
26yo, affectionate, 6', slim, smooth body, passionate kisser, seeks cute Asian male, under 40, for hot times. ☎ 1810

Shy passive GWM
57, 5'10", 150#, HIV-, interested in hiking and classical music looking for HIV- GWM with nice body for companionship and possible oral sex. ☎ 1811

The real thing!!
GWM looking for a long term friend (lover). I'm 35, 6ft, br/r. Looking for monogamous relationship for life. ☎ 1712

Ben Vivant
Seeks ongoing friendship with an attr. under 45 man who appreciates being with an affectionate loving-caring mature man, early 60s, 5'8", 175#, open to LTR. ☎ 1813

Handsome muscular Italian
GWM, 6'2", 185#, 38, into fitness, travel, romance and quiet times seeks another HIV- extremely well-hung man for monogamous relationship. ☎ 1814

Looking for excitement?
Mature older WM HIV- bottom, 71/2x61/2. You 35-75 any race love to 69. Deep throat your thick 7" plus. I live alone- You from San Jose or South Peninsula. Hot times!! ☎ 1815

Haven't U heard!
I'm looking for you: 5'9" to 6'; heavy-set and relationship oriented. I'm relationship, career and health oriented; 5'9" and medium set. Only serious need inquire. ☎ 1817

Looking for true love
Cute guy in 40s, professional for true love. I'm a GWM looking, 160#, 6' tall, into current events, movies and romantic times. Seeking masculine, secure, fun-loving GWM between 28-55. ☎ 1907

Single Chicano guy 27
I'm from Mexican descent, 5'7", 160#, muscular, stocky, Grad student. Seeking Latin(a) or White under 38, for friendship or more. N/S only. ☎ 1720

Big brain big heart big dick
Seeks same for playful romance, intense conversation, and passionate sex. I'm a college teacher, 33, 195#, 6'1", goateed, HIV neg. Your 20-40 medium/slim, HIV neg. ☎ 1909

Glory holes!
Like to stick my big stiff dick into them. Know any good ones? Time & location? SF & N. Bay. ☎ 1730

Valley men
50, average, seeking mature GWMs Modesto/Stockton. Mutual admiration. Brenda Health club Browsers. Talk, walk, think, do. ☎ 1910

I love blue eyes & tall man
Cute Southeast GAM, 32yo, 5'7", 135#, bl/br affectionate, healthy HIV+, would like to find one attractive GWM 5'9" & up, height/weight proportionate. Age is open. ☎ 1911

Let's date! Me: GWM 45, 5'9" 165#, Drk. HIV+, fit, sane, N/D. Bottom; Spiritual. You: Want relationship, taller, top, humorous, like healthy fun. ☎ 1912

Why I'm a good cocksucker:
Because it's the best way to get a mouthful of your hot cum, fresh from factory. Why I'm a really good cocksucker: Two mouthfuls! ☎ 1913

Back-to-basics cocksucking
We can chat another time, right now I'll just suck you off, rather well too! Object: Hefly spurts of your maximized load. Beats caviar!! ☎ 1914

Bearded Husky N2 TT+FF
Need ongoing spiritual revelation w/leather/HIV+ versatile top. GWM/GWM N2 dildos, TT,FF. Me, GBM, 6'1", 200# short hair and goatee. Need a soulmate... ☎ 1915

Where are you? Oakland area?
Black male 51, 5'9", 170, in shape HIV-, seeks a quality, masculine looking White male 36-70 for physical, emotional involvement. ☎ 2022

Bright eyes seeking Asian love
If you are slim, smooth, clean shaven GAM. This 6'-185#, Br/Hz GWM would like to meet for possible LTR. I'm like to meet for possible LTR. I'm honest, kind, loving, sincere, affectionate. ☎ 1916

East Bay sensual man desired
For GWM, 41, decent man. Love to touch, kiss, cuddle. Enjoy walks, film, books, museums, conversation, spirituality. Desire safe, sane, honest man like me, better than average, to warm up spring. ☎ 1917

GAM ISO GWM for LTR
Smooth, quiet and attractive Koren Gay (6', 160#). ISO White male for companionship, friendship and possible LTR. ☎ 2004

Chicano has no luck
I'm 5'7", 160, muscular, student. I'm not too picky but I always meet unemotional, workaholic, needy or club crazy guys. If you are not an extremist, respond. N/S. ☎ 2005

I survived where are you?
Youthful 40, spiritual, handsome, bottom-quiet Southerner, HIV- ready to conquer the world with the right man. ISO or Soulmate. Take me I'm yours! ☎ 2006

My perfect mate
GWM, greatlooking, great body, HIV-, early 30s. Successful, grounded, self-actualized, athletic, adventurous, romantic. Seeks same. S 2007

Attractive Latino
Goodlooking Latino 32yo to dark hair, brown eyes, goatee, like to go to movies, dinner, hiking, tennis, travel. Looking for GWM between 25-37 yo for friendship or more. Just call. ☎ 2008

Outdoors Man
WM, 33yrs, HIV+, 5'10", 170#. Attractive, healthy, mind body & spirit. Beaches, hiking, tennis, looking for Black, Latino, White male, top, masculine, sincere, healthy 25-35. Fun. ☎ 2009

Where is Daddy's Boy
Dad: 54yo, 6', 188#, very fit, goatee, balding, unimhibited, versatile, playful. You: Very fit, likes to please, Lewis, loyal, and if chemistry is right, share life, BLK, Latin A+ ☎ 2011

I'm seeking younger sexy man
For ongoing romantic-sexual times. I am 74, 5'8", 170# and you are under 40 and prefers a mature man both in and out of bed. Open to LTR. ☎ 2023

Go with love
I believe in partners for everything; adventure, friendship, and romance. GAM seeks male for partner. Me: Tall slim, late 30s. You: Slim late 30s. You're no-body till somebody loves you. ☎ 2014

Comfortable shoes
I'm a good-looking masculine 60 GWM, 5'9", 158#, grey hair, have traveled extensively, and I'm a happy person. 5 years ago I lost my lover and I finally feel ready to be with a man for sex (I'm a top) companionship, movies, theater, opera, ballet, and dining out. Give me a call and let's see if the shoe fits! ☎ 2015

Sometimes silly!
GWM, 45, 6'10", trim/toned, brn(receding)/Hzle, healthy HIV+, fun-loving, irreverent, affectionate, independent, sexually adventurous (verabtm). Likes film, theatre, ballet, football, golf (go figure!) ISO secure GWM 35-48, in-shape to share some/all of above. Richard. ☎ 2016

Let's face it
You're a cute SF GAM looking for a nice GWM not obsessed by sex if so, this HIV 31 yo 5'11", 200#, professional wants to meet you. Nice guys only. ☎ 1812

A smile on your heart
Hugs & kisses come 1st My arms hold what the world lacks. Me: Top attr, GWM 48, 6'5", 250, large husky-stocks build, brown hair/moustache, hairy chest & stomach. Your: Attract, GWM, 21-40, slim, smooth/moderate body hair. ☎ 1908

GBM, Professional.
40s, 5'11", 190#, Oakland. Enjoy theater, dining, movies and cuddling. HIV+. Good health. ISO GWM 35-45yrs, similar interest. Friendship/ LTR. ☎ 2017

The search is over-E. Bay
Handsome 28yo GWM in the E. Bay looking for love. I'm 6'2", blondish, brown, 190#, gym-toned. Seeking loving, honest, sweet, HIV+ mate for LTR. Be under 35, slender & sweet. ☎ 2018

Big dick/muscle build
Got your attention? Black guy, tan, 35, beard, HIV-, open to possibilities. More than just sex-Hell, I can do that by myself! ☎ 2012

Attr GWM Beartype nudist SF
39, 6'2", 240# and losing, wants GWM/LatM in SF 35-45, slim, medium or natural build, dating, poss LTR. Movies, music, kiss, talk, cuddle, play, sex too. Pref NS/Drug, serious only please. ☎ 2019

Black & White in color
Trustworthy GWM with design for living seeks loving Black male for intimate romance and passion. Me: tall, muscular, handsome, open. Prefer outgoing romantic, fit and muscular. ☎ 2020

Tall goodlooking guy ISO mate
Me: Hard, lanky body. Fun loving, smart, Bohemian. Mostly top. You: slim build, sensitive, clever mind, real. Know how to love and be loved in return. ☎ 2021

Aggressive Black men
I wish to service Black men for LTR. GWM needs to use his deep throat to suck men for hours. I'm insatiable-cum many times. I'm yours. ☎ 2023

SEEKING ADVENTURE

Kick back & spread your cheeks
44, Italian 6'4de, masculine, 6', 180#, mustache & goatee, buzzcut, looking for hot, horny studs to kick back & let me suck your ass & get you off. ☎ 1723

Ride on my bushy mustache
And feel my long tongue up your hot butt. Me: 6', 165#, br/blu, 39. You: hot, trim & ready! ☎ 1724

Ass lover for bottoms
Lucky to be with your hole before & after you get fucked. Have hot talented mouth. ☎ 1725

River Phoenix incarnation
Strapping young lad seeks gentlemen for super exciting games, fun, festivity & more! Call soon love. ☎ 1726

Palo Alto Asian cocksucking
39, 5'11", 185, needs a good drilling. Have car will travel within the Peninsula of SF0 + daytime preferred. ☎ 1727

Seeking full leather fuckers
Handsome, hairy, GWM, 39, 5'10", 210#, HIV+, leather bottom needs his ass pumped full of cum by in shape gloved full leather tops. Playroom is a plus. Pierced dicks welcome. ☎ 1728

Looking for rough riders...
This very top, very masculine GWM wants bottom oriented men & boys who know how to service 6'2", 195#, musc, hairy, & hung stud. You need to be intense, insatiable, and inspace. ☎ 1729

Just shut-up and ride!
WM, 33, 5'10", 200#, blond-blue male hunk (48" ch, 32" w, 18" arms) wants good looking, masculine men to pump, or get pumped full of squirt. Also! love to get massaged & jerked off!! ☎ 1731

Euro American seeks hot bottom
Very attractive top seeks aggressive, creative bottom Asians or Latinos under thirty for fun times and more. ☎ 1732

A1 oral service for HIV- men
SF, GWM, 46, HIV-, handsome, delivery, skilled oral service to trim, mature men who love getting oral attention. Your place. No reciprocation. ☎ 1733

Head given w/lust, passion, greed
Marathon deep throat to the root cocksucker, dentures, cockhugger bottom dad type for any age, race, size cockproud stud. Give your dick the sensual best, 7 days 24hrs, uncult, couples love, group service? Gay, Bi, straight. No recip. I suck you insane. My place, your place or the alley?? ☎ 1734

3 bears ISO the big bad woof!
3 big bears, 5'9"-6'3", goodlooking, bearded, masculine. ISO one or more hairy bear types, top/versatile (more top than bottom) for weekend group fuck scenes in SF or E. Bay ☎ 1736

Here's the deal!
I'm 35, youthful, handsome, fit, mostly straight. You're older polite, clean. Your place. I drink beer and watch porn. You submissively and enthusiastically service my truly beautiful cock and balls. ☎ 1738

Wanted: young guy
WM, br/r, athletic, attractive, healthy, HIV-, 42, 6'2", 175#, seeks similar qualities in 20-30yo guy for exploring our sexual desires. Not into scene and live in city a plus. ☎ 1739

Substitute teachers needed
"Tubed" by college English Professor and now I want more. \$K. 60+ top to penetrate mid 40s near virgin. HIV+, rehired bottom, open to new subjects. ☎ 1740

Over the knee spankings
Sensuous & erotic to heavy. Roleplay possible, novices welcome, limits respected. Me: attrac. GWM, 48, 6'5", 250, large husky build. You: attrac. GWM, 18-35, slim, smooth/moderate bodyhair, nice buns. ☎ 1741

God's gift to man
God's gift to man seeks same.... ☎ 1742

Dad seeks hard body boy
Who has thin, lean, defined physique and loves to get fucked by 8" dick, loves to service dick, tit play. I'm 6'1", 190#, br/blu, 44, muscular, fit. ☎ 1743

Fresh firm and fun to look at
5'7", 150 solid lbs healthy, intelligent, passionate HIV+ GWM shaved head ISO tall, fit, together guy who wants his luxurious huge cock deep throated until he throws me on my back and pounds my tight bubble butt until we both shoot sweaty loads on my firm smooth chest and wants me to take the top every third or fourth session. ☎ 1820

Here ye, mountain bears & pigs
Bearded Daddies GWM+GWM, HIV+, N 2, T+1, FF, and dildos. Levi/leather preferred. Me: GBM 6'1", 205#, sp hair & goatee, versatile top. Slip-n-slide/passion. ☎ 1821

Foreskin service
WM 45 hairy, hung and hungry for uncult stud with big veiny foreskin dick, unload on my face love that foreskin, I'm in Sonoma County. ☎ 1822

Seeks older man
Cute Latino 26, 5'11", 160, bottom wanted older Black or Latino guys for hot sex. Looks unimportant ☎ 1823

Hot and juicy
Bubblebutt and deep throat for one or more well-hung studs. Tall, good-looking in-shape bottom. Ready to take it all your way! Fill it up with premium! ☎ 1824

Top man seeks hot young head
WM 40s, HIV-very muscular in shape dominant top seeks submissive HIV- boy under 30 with cum hungry deep throatat into older men for long sessions at your SF place. ☎ 1825

4 hung tops 2 . cum...
U need a hot bottom: 37, 6'2", 195, cute h/wt/prop. uninhibited, deepthroat, tight butt 4 ur pleasure. All hung 8" plus, for total downloading into my 2 hungry tops. ☎ 1826

Horse hung built Black dark meat
Very goodlooking, straight acting tan, 35 yo. Smooth long hair Latino Irish white guy. 5'8", 150#, 7x5" trimmed, hungrily awaits you. ☎ 1827

Submissive son sought by E. Bay
Daddy 40 seeks sons 18-30. You must be submissive bottom and aggressive sucker to please Daddy. Limits respected. ☎ 1828

ISO Leather SM Daddy Bear
6', 220#, flat topped, gr eyes, stache & goatee Leather buck looking for his strict, sadistic, romantic & caring Leather SM Daddy Bear to train and down him full time. ☎ 1829

GWM 40 5'10", 160, seeks GWM
18-30 for fun times & travel. You should be clean shaven and love to have sex. Bottoms sought. ☎ 1830

Adventuresome versatile oral
And more. Good looking, in shape, mid-40s, GWM ISO others looking for regular, intimate nights together, exploring each others bodies. Taking a backer to the limits of ecstasy and... ☎ 1831

Leather video's toys at home
GBM seeking to find man of any race for safe play times at home video's all kinds your place please will answer. ☎ 1832

Lean and hairy
If you're a masculine guy with a tight trim build and facial or body hair, a smooth trim masculine WM 40 will give you an erotic oral session. ☎ 1833

Uncult Latino Bear
37, 6'2", 250 lbs fairly hairy with hands & feet is seeking top oriented wk men. Tall and under 50 preferred but open to all ☎ 1834

ISO mouth and throat stretcher
SF, Marin and Sonoma County extra thick, long dicks wanted for sucking, licking, worshipping, slapping and rubbing on face by attractive guy. Huge hung men any age, race call now. ☎ 1737

Heavy masculine top San Jose
I'm 5'9", 260, about 40, lusty, bright, manly, always hard, and I want a sweet, young lad (under 36), slim, for sex, friendship, maybe more, in San Jose. Answer all! ☎ 1918

Never can bet enough
If you are a top and you like your dick sucked and you can fuck for hours. Answer this ad. 6', 170, 38, and med hairy. ☎ 1919

Wanted: Big Hairy Firm Butt
Well built aggressive top, hung big, needs well built WM (20s-30s) with big firm hairy butt to eat and fuck. ☎

1920

Hot bottom ISO 2 Tops in E-Bay
GLM, 30, 5'10", 175, Goodlooking with nice body. ISO 2 hot tops to use me on reg basis, you should be HIV-goodlooking 35-45yrs, masc & aggressive. ☎ 1921

Want to serve Daddy
Novice GWM 28, 6'4", 220#, mostly bottom, bl/black, average build ISO Dad for training in obedience, leather, bondage. Be 35-55, clean, HIV- fit to stocky. ☎ 1922

Do your weeenie a big favor!!
And put it in my toothless mouth (all the way in). GW masc. clean and healthy seeks same, your weeenie & me will thank you. ☎ 1923

Hot hungry white ass
Muscular mature bottom in Oakland seeks hung top who love fucking and enjoys using rock hard ass & nice tits on healthy HIV+. Shaved head 5'3", 135lb. Smooth defined bod. ☎ 1924

Got to have a cock suck
GWM, 5'11", 170, N/S, N/D, likes to suck & get fucked by a Latino, Black, White with at least 6 1/2" and play with your balls age not factor, call. ☎ 1925

Hiv+ show/examine/eat assholes
With Asian men. Shameless total prolonged sensual exploration, especially of holes, endless rimming/kissing, photos, fantasy play, public adventures, shaving, performing. GWM, 41, 5'11", 165, goatee, 7x5, avg. looks. ☎ 1926

My one and really only
Reason to suck you off is to get your work. Since a really good blow job maximizes your production, count on me for the most creative possible work on your dick. ☎ 1927

57 GWM service pervert
Seeks master/top to please and obey. Subject is sucker and fuckee. Any ethnicity or age. Ongoing relationship desired. Lace, Ws A+. Subject is HIV-. ☎ 1928

Amateur cocksuckers
Think they do it for big dicks. Us pros know better (and do better jobs!) big loads are all that matters. Lets see how big we can make yours. ☎ 1929

Want to play with something?
Big. Hows 8 thick uncult inches on a hot inshape blond top. If your inshape, sincere fun, bottom leave a massage now!!! ☎ 1930

Oakland guy
W/M, 33, HIV+ and healthy seeks other positive guys for mutual J/O and oral. Shaved a plus. Let's get naked. ☎ 1931

Ass sucker for bottoms
Love to suck your hole before + After you get fucked. Try my hot bottom. ☎ 1932

Ready willing and able bottom
Seeks hung like a horse top. GWM 38, goodlooking fit, into hiking, movies, dining out, clean shaven. Seek top with similar intr. 35-43. Non smokers HIV- only. ☎ 2024

Struggle for top cum
GWM, 5'10", 170.51, very furry chest, in shape, HIV+, will take on aggressive men. Wrestling, boxing, fantasy scenes. Loser needs to worship body of winner. ☎ 2025

Got Dick?
BM looking for male wanting oral service at your place. Help me get the practice I need. BM, Hispanic, European, Middle Eastern A++ ☎ 2026

Goodlooking BLK. M38, 5'11"
190#. Top looking for two other men of masc. stocky Latino & Blk guy for some hot group action, 30-45 for long hot sessions and a little romance. A great kisser A++ + more. No couples. ☎ 2027

Aggressive top seeks
Young Asian bottom. Dominant cauc. 5'10", 170#, 39yo, strong arms & legs, hairy chest, thick 8" cock wants horn-dog Asian slut boy. Under 25, smooth with hungry butt & mouth for hot fuck sessions. ☎ 2028

Pasivo, Hermano?

Alameda/Oakland are top man seeks a masculine, Hispanic bottom who can take 9 behind. Major pluses: over 40 dark hair, moustache, olive skin. ☎ 2029

Meet Swiss bottom
GWM, 34, HIV-, 5'7", 180#, bl/bl, goatee, hairy chest, uncult, bottom only, recently moved to SF, seeks handsome, nice, masculine tops for fun times and casual dating. ☎ 2030

ISO older 40+ GM
Seeking older 40+ hung uncult mature GWM/GWM in San Jose area for some fun or maybe more. Me: muscular 40, 5'6", w/lat 9" cock, LS/LD E-mail Qbot@hotmail.com ☎ 2031

ISO BLK tags in E. Bay
GLM 30, HIV- bottom, handsome with good body. ISO top BLK man into taking control of this hot bottom. You should be 30-50 goodlooking & very masculine. ☎ 2032

Submissive bottom
ISO masc., clean cut men in good shape to service attractive Wht. cleancut GWM, 5'9", 158#, hairy chest smooth butt, hungry mouth, deep throat at your service. ☎ 2033

In-Fuckin-Credable mouth
All-American boy-next-door ISO masculine, in-shape, white dude, under 35-who likes to just kick back. No reciprocity. The straight boys seem to appreciate me. ☎ 2034

Bicepual!
Well-defined baseball bi's get a noticeable rise out of me. Handsome, hard, healthy, and hung seeks another with great arms. ☎ 2035

Window cock showoff
Hot exhibitionist with big dick seeks hard cocks performing stiff in windows! Naked muscle and cock stroking for a big dick audience! Nice hard cock entertaining nightly! Jack off studs! ☎ 2036

Small or slender slight men
Wanted by 50 yo Masseuse who enjoys massaging skinny, slim, lean men. Free professional licensed Swedish Massage (1hr) Daytime, Haight Panhandle area. ☎ 2037

ISO men in Marin City
San Rafael GWM, 5'2", 115#, HIV-, 56yo. Very tight hairy & tiny ass. Needs your cock to suck and fuck me good. Safe, sane I'm very discreet & have talented mouth, age open. Your place or mine, lite drink & smoke or aroma. OK. All answered, be sincere. ☎ 2039

Fuck me on my belly
Hungry big white asshole wants to give it up to serious marathon assfucking studs any age/race. Me: 46, 185#, 5'10", stocky, shaved head/breast. ☎ 2040

Some like it hot
GWM 38, 5'10", 150#, lean, trim, masc, goatee. ISO uninhibited tops h/wt/prop. for serious fucking. 1 on 1 or buddy fucks. ☎ 1735

Take orders well?
You: strip kneel, suck, get it doggy-style. I cut on your face. Me: 40, fit, hung 8+. You: 21-35, fit, white. ☎ 2041

FETISHES

Corporal punishment
Meted out to deserving individuals. Training to serve and suffer for the pleasure/entertainment of another. Only those in need of serious training and abuse need apply. Subject should be in good shape, 18-38, no fantasy trips/first timers. ☎ 1744

Older men into kinky sex
GWM hiv-, 110#, 5'2", stache, 55yo. Hot hairy little ass. Need finger, cock's or hands. Also have fantasies about my balls being well stretched, weighed, shaved, tied up, electronic stimulation, from moderate to heavy, respect my limits. I'm serious & ready!! U B experienced & horny. ☎ 1745

Sonoma County cock-worshiper
Obedient, gentle, middle-aged, Caucasian, nice-looking, healthy dad, wants to service slave, dominant son, 18-35. No obligation first meeting, then your dick is at my command. ☎ 1746

Switching gears
Masculine WM, 57, long time pussy eater wants to try sucking cock of male 67-70 willing to finish by pulling out and jerking off your hot load on my face before hosing me down. ☎ 1747

Spankings for deserving lads
By GM, 34, 5'10", 180#. Are you 18-34, simply curious or, a bad boy who needs some good old fashioned discipline, then tell me your desires/boundaries. ☎ 1748

Novice spit slave
Wanted: Spitters with thick loads of snot-filled spit. Race, age unimportant, but good ole boy spit tobacco lovers A+.. Wrestling or additional ranch possible, but not essential. ☎ 1749

Nice guy loves barefeet
Lifelong excitement looking at and fantasizing about men's barefeet. Gd/eng. East Bay GWM, 5'8", trim, tan, HIV-, loves reciprocal kissing, licking, massaging barefeet and sensual/safe all over body play. ☎ 1750

Bald/balding men w/facial hair
Turn me on. GWM, 26, 6'3", 155, shaved head, goatee, in open LTR seeks men for no strings sex, vanilla to kink. You: any age, race, body type. ☎ 1751

Hot scat fed to deserving/hungry
fit service toilets. Will train obedient beginners. Razor strap may enforce compliance (optional). Only the worthy need apply. Have rimseal will travel. ☎ 1752

V/exp. Handball bottom dad type
5'11", 165#, 32" w, brd. tats, vimuch into strong sensations seeks serious heavy duty top fist, any stats, sling master, bondage and your trip, your way all the way. NHB. Thank you. ☎ 1753

Bondage for bodybuilders
WM, late 40s, wants to see your muscles flex and strain as I tie you up and play with your pecs, cock, balls, until you cum! ☎ 1754

Dad seeks son
GWM, 54, 5'7", 145#, masculine, top, hairy, NS, HIV-, educated. You: passive, submissive, loyal, devoted, quiet, serious, HIV-, NS, under age 32. ☎ 1755

Big bear needs whipping
Missed trips to daddys woodshed has made this sucker needs attitude correction. This education is hard work but wise schoolmasters know value of a well applied hitchcock switch. ☎ 1756

Tall trim Puerto Rican
ISO lean daddy type guys 6' tall & taller who love to ride a juicy butt and suck a big dick. ☎ 1757

Looking for a boy...and his dog
Help me explore my kinky side. I am a 32, 6'1", 200#, cleancut guy. Woof!!! ☎ 1758

It's the bondage, stupid!!
Attr. GWM, 38, 5'6", 140#, seeks attr. in shape, masc. single guys, 30-45 with nice feet, for safe bondage with erotic J/O. Versatiles only. Smokers, social drinkers ok. Bondage lovers only! ☎ 1759

Filthy street bare feet
GWM, 30, slim, into natural barefoot lifestyle always barefoot, everywhere. Wants similar guys with tough, filthy feet for barefoot outings on grimy streets. Will worship your filthy feet; mutual ok. ☎ 1933

Sex slave wanted
GWM, 45, 185#, 5'10", Businessman by day/Adventurer at night, seeks slave into oral service for this fit, handsome HIV(-) master. You: In shape, under 40, HIV(-) and sane. ☎ 1934

Scat top wanted
Goodlooking guy, mid-30s, seeking similar for scat toilet action. I'm mostly bottom, but versatile. Let's get together. ☎ 1935

Dad seeks son
GWM, 54, 5'7", 140, masculine top, NS, HIV neg, hairy/You: passive, submissive, quiet, serious, HIV-, needing love/discipline, under age 32. ☎ 1936

Fisticuffs
Strong, tough, hairy skinhead fighter, 5'8", 152#, seeking buddies for sparring, fighting, B+ or smaller gloves, prefer. bareknucks. UFC-style submission/KO fighting too. ☎ 1937

Ouch!!
Spank me, tie me up, jack me off slowly, while looking into my eyes. Sexy boy, 31, 5'8", 130, seeks take charge man. ☎ 1938

Butt-Yumm
Your butt hot enough to eat from? Love butts attached to hot tops 18-40 who love their backside serviced as well as sum kinky ideas to with it. ☎ 1939

COUPLES

Bi WM seeks white M/F couple
Bl white male, br/br, 6', 160#, t/gall trim defined body, attractive, seeks white male/female couple for sex. ☎ 1940

Tag-Team wrestling
Two tough, hairy, experienced grapplers seek one-on-one tag team fights in private ring. Rough-hoofe no-holds barred bouts only; no fantasy crap. Wrestling parties monthly too! ☎ 1941

Sexy couple wanted for...
Possible ongoing threesome. Me: 5'7", 145lbs, 32, toned, trim, well hung and versatile. Kissable from head to toe. Friendly, respectful, passionate & safe. ☎ 1843

My pretty girl friend wants...
A cute young boy to torment and torture. She'll strip/bind him, spank his buttocks & sexually assault his cock & balls. I will referee!! ☎ 2057

OTHER

Always The Gentleman
English former headmaster spans and stimulates naughty boys and girls. Pleasant, dignified situation. ☎ 1552

Seeking dates with younger man
Attractive, interesting, generous man, 47, 5'10", 155, seeks younger friend for dinner, concerts, outings. You: under 30, athletic, extremely handsome, smart. ☎ 1760

Nasty imaginations
Tops & bottoms, 18-45, into butt play, WS to extreme ranch, 1st timers, alone or group, come play with couple, one versatile and one submissive guy bottom. ☎ 1835

Masculine, overweight guys;
Are you looking for a discreet Buddy to explore some man to man fantasies & fetishes: underwear, jocks, water-sports, ranch? ☎ 1836

Cowboys W/loads for my throat
You: Hat, boots, GWM, 25-45, versatile, HIV-, h/wt/wt proportionate. Me: GWM, 38, dry Bl/B, goatee, in-shape, educated city w/ country cravings. Leave message w/description. Rowdy/ hungry. ☎ 1837

Heartbeats are a turn-on
Muscular defined GWM 41, 175#, swimmers build with broad shoulders, into pecs/muscle worship, titplay and jacking to heartbeat. Have stethoscopes will travel. Live in Sonoma Co. in SF often. ☎ 1838

Hot fuck/first party pig
Me: 38 GWM, 6', 165#, br/bl, beard, hairy chest; hung 9+, great butt; vers/mutual; You: top or vers, masc, hung, hairy, pierce, tattoos are pluses. Days or nights. ☎ 1839

Dominating man or men wanted
Seeking single, couples, small group of masculine guys to turn cute, smooth, boyish GWM 32, a complete novice, into an obedient pig (explain) bottom. ☎ 1840

Whipping needed
Bad boy 61 years young needs spanking, whipping. I always do as i'm told or almost always. Punish me please!! ☎ 1841

Seeking discipline
24, tight slim body, sweet face, looking for someone experienced with the inexperienced. More interested in your punishments and head games than in sex. ☎ 1842

Huge nipples 4 your pleasure
Missed the deadline to respond to your 2/5/98 ad if still available, I may be your man. Latino, 39, Bi. A true tit, nipple, lover if they're really huge call!!! ☎ 1844

Hot guy w/toe ring seeks footbud
Masculine, tan, goodlooking E. Bay GWM, 5'8", 140#, HIV-, craves reciprocal foot licking, smelling, caressing, massaging, naked body closeness, safe J/O fantasies. Light odor, toughened soles ok. Further friendship welcomed. ☎ 2042

Suck Buddy
BLK. M 38, 5'11", 190#. W/a fat dick looking for a masc. oral Latino man for mutual nipple play long cocksucking session. ☎ 2043

Bearded blue collar Bears!!
Beefy & husky truckers, maintenance, engineers, plumbers & electricians, HIV+ GWM/GHM 22 dildos, TT, FF, V-top, rimming. Me: GBM, 6'1", 205#, Sht S/P Bear & mustache/goatee/Beer!! ☎ 2044

Business suit/shoe fetish
Handsome dad type in conservative suit, tie and shiny lace up business shoes seeks other men in suits for sex play and executive shoe service. ☎ 2045

Need cigar smokin bearded bear
Want to party w/GWM/GHM HIV+, husky & hairy 200# & up. N2 dildos, TT, FF, Levi/Leather. Me: GBM 205#, 6'1", mustache & goatee Sht. S/P hair GRRRR!! ☎ 2046

Day time-Asshole-Eater
Get your asshole eaten by a pro!

Older men
42yo LM, 6', 155#, moderately hairy. ISO older men who enjoy oral service, kissing & affection. Long beards, hair rugged looks A+. Not into gay lifestyle, games, gyms. Smokers OK. ☎ 2048

Thirsty? Parched?
Your tongue probes my piss slit, pressure builds, a golden hot gusher erupts. Spit nozzle offers relief for talented mouths. Age, looks unimportant. Major thirst is. ☎ 2049

Need heavy SM contract Sadist
Want to party w/masculine, 5'7", 160, A1 GWM masochist needs hardboded, hardcore, unsympathetic sadist capable/equipped/experienced to administer detailed heavy pain/humiliation contact. Complete immobilization. Full front/rear gang servicing/abuse. ☎ 2050

ISO ticklish white feet
GWM mid 30s, looking for 18-20y GWM with very ticklish feet. Blonde A+. Smooth A+. Lets have some laughs. ☎ 2051

Masculine man-pussy in panties
Dirty-talk me. Foreplay me. Work me to a lather. Then slip and ride my pussy to kingdom cum. ☎ 2052

GD/LKG Bearpig boy total bottom
Obedient, 40, 5'10", 235#, 5'2" hairy chest, br/rl, bearded, insatiable. ISO all dominant, selfish, raunchy, sweaty, sloppy, out of shape, verbal tops to use me for your pleasure. SF/E. Bay. ☎ 2053

Muscle worship
WM, late 40s, seeks muscular guy of any size into flexing, being admired. Like defined biceps and hot pecs. Asians/Blacks A + ☎ 2054

Ebony seeks Ivory
Prof, educated BM (mid 30s) likes women (clean) feet. Let me caress you. Woman & fem butches only. South Bay preferred. SF okay. Discrete a must. ☎ 2055

BAR TALK PERSONALS ARE FREE!

CATEGORY

- Parting Glances ☐
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Headline, 30 characters maximum

Write the rest of your ad here, 30 words maximum

MAIL FORM TO: BAR Talk, Bay Area Reporter, 395 Ninth Street, San Francisco, CA 94103

You must use this form to submit ads. Deadline for ads is **TUESDAY at 5 PM**, for the following week's issue. New ads run for three consecutive weeks. You will be notified by mail with information on how to leave and retrieve messages from your mailbox ad. Print clearly. No ads will be accepted without valid address, telephone number and legible text. The Bay Area Reporter reserves the right to edit ads. One ad per customer per week.

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Hard core

Nasty

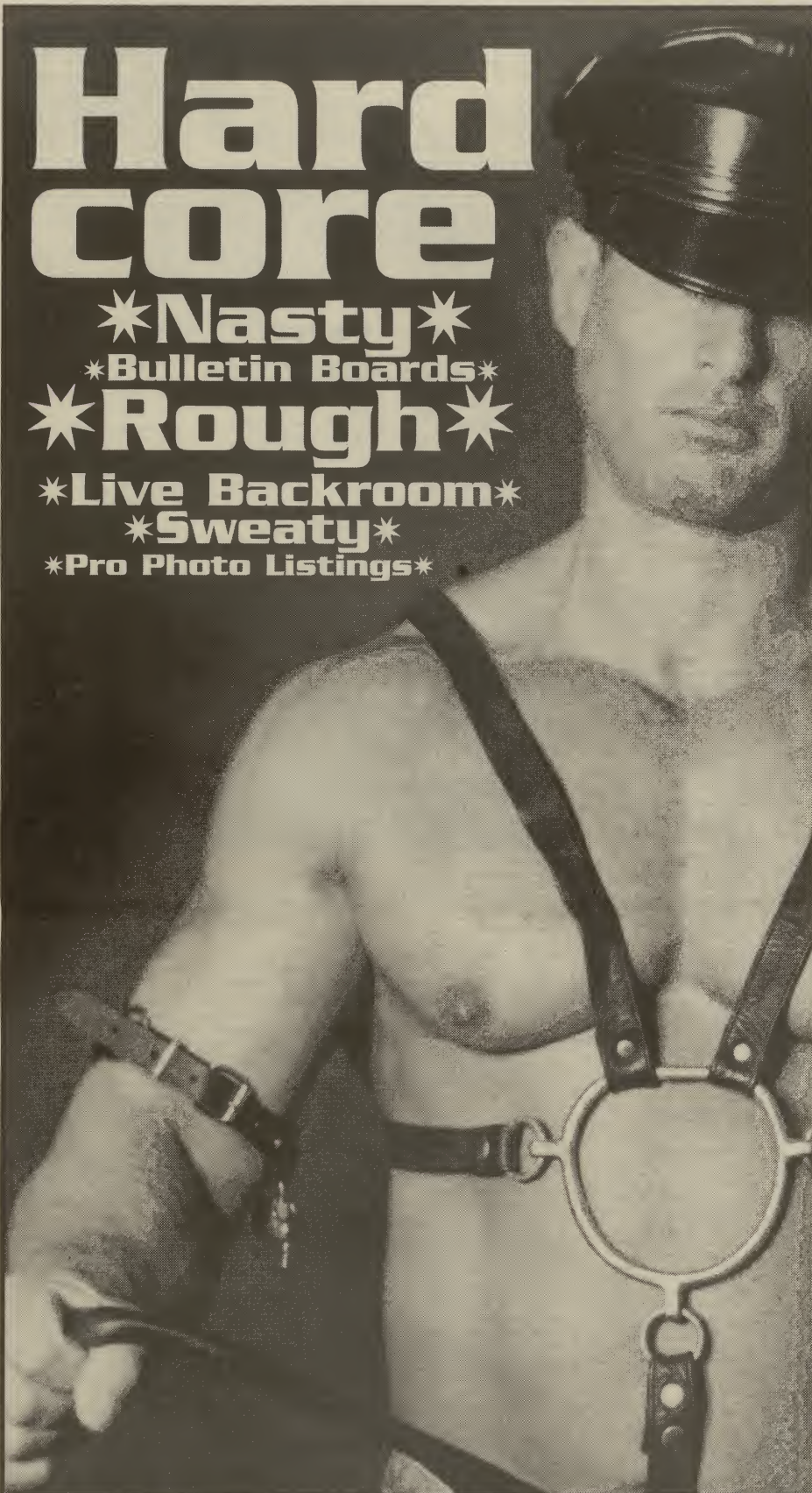
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OUT THERE

Out There

◀ page 34

ing up big hair and advising his starlet-clients, "Just shake it, baby."

Children of a lesser closet

While Casper lets his hair down in Hollywood, cultural repression continues apace in Tokyo. The children of late Japanese novelist **Yukio Mishima** have been successful yet again in suppressing the story of his (homo)sexuality. In response to a lawsuit filed by the family, Tokyo District Court ordered the publishing house Bungei Shunju Ltd. to stop selling the new release *Yukio Mishima: The Sword and the Red Pigment of Winter* and to withdraw unsold copies from bookstores.

The book, about a homosexual affair between Mishima and author **Jiro Fukushima**, quoted parts of 15 previously unpublished love letters from Mishima to Fukushima. Mishima's daughter, **Noriko Tomita**, and his son, **Ichiro Hiraoka**, claimed the use of the letters violated the copyright on his work. Previously, those caring kids had been successful in preventing Japanese distribution of Paul Schrader's so-so film *Mishima*.

"It's a shame that an important key to understanding Mishima's work will be hidden from the public," said **Hideki Amemiya**, Bungei Shunju spokesman. If his heirs keep up their closed-door policy, some day there may be no reputation left to protect.

Star turns

By way of contrast, immortal star **Judy Garland** was a public personality who knew how to keep feeding the media beast. In a 1961 interview for *Redbook* magazine, Judy said of her two daughters, "It's funny how **Liza** is so



Lorna, her daughter Vanessa, and Liza.

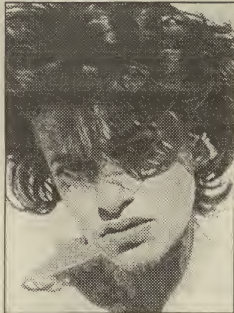
much like me, a quietness much of the time, a little sedentary, and **Lorna** is just the opposite, a mercurial child." Judy also prophesied about Lorna: "I'm sure she's going to turn into something important. I don't have any idea at all what it will be, but it will be startling and flamboyant..."

If Lorna never quite lived up to her mother's expectations, Liza sure came out of her quiet phase, and then some. Our writer **John** ("I'm my own cheap thrill!") **Karr's** candid interview with Lorna Luft in this week's *ish* makes clear there's still lots of contention between the two halves. But as **Sandra Bernhard** remarks, it's so easy to dog Liza. She puts on a few pounds and everyone says, "Liza's all fucked up again!"

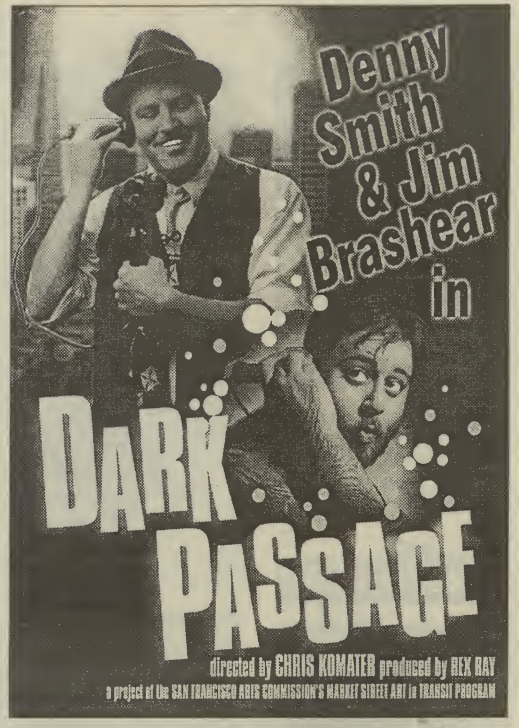
If Ms. Bernhard herself was visibly pregnant for her opening at the Alcazar a few weeks back, she was even more pregnant for

the HBO taping of the show last week at Slim's. With her rapidly developing belly and her penchant for see-through dresses, she looked something like a **Teletubby** into fetishwear. A few lines into her opening monologue, she stopped the proceedings in order to read the audience to filth for its tepid response. "This is not some cheap club date! This is an **HBO** special, and you're in the presence of a star!"

The very special nature of the



Teletubby extra?



Coming soon to a Market Street kiosk near you.

proceedings was driven home by signs posted in the restrooms which advised, "By attending this event, you are giving implicit permission to be photographed and have your image used by HBO." Well okay, but we're so pee-shy to begin with!

Pictures at an exhibition

Sidewalk kiosks along Market Street between the Embarcadero and Van Ness Avenue are the frames these days for six original works by SF artist **Chris Komater**, faux 40s-style movie posters featuring gay and lesbian couples presented as heroic, romantic, and glamorous — you know, the way hetero couples are regularly shown on the Silver

Screen. The "Dark Passage" series, with design contribution by **Rex Ray**, is sponsored by the SF Art Commission's Market Street in Transit Program, and will remain up through July 2.

Finally, we have got to hand it to glossy Canadian *fab* mag *Fab* for not putting on any unnecessary airs. While similar slicks *Genre* and *Out* — the so-called "gay in-flight magazines" — regularly try to disguise their puff-pieces on some tired designer's latest collection with arty pretensions or "high concept," *Fab* tells it like it is in a teaser on the cover of its spring issue: "Plus... **Gratuitous Body Shots** Disguised as Fashion." It's an aesthetic we can relate to. We'll tease to that. ▼

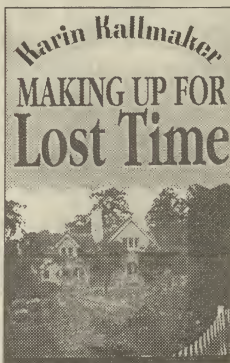
Kitchen duty

by Deborah Peifer

Making Up For Lost Time by Karin Kallmaker; Naiad, \$11.95

I'll confess that when I read the character names in Karin Kallmaker's latest novel, dread was the feeling most evident in my heart. Jamie Onassis, Valkyrie Valentine — was this some sort of joke? I ought to have had more faith, for Kallmaker provides believable reasons for each outlandish name, and vivid characters to breathe life into them.

Jamie is a chef at a Bay Area restaurant run by a man who thinks women do not belong in any kitchen, especially his. When Jamie's Aunt Emily leaves her enough money to open her own place, her immediate plan is to buy the country inn where she grew up. Unfortunately, the current owner let the place decay, so much work needs to be done before the inn can become a going concern. Enter Valkyrie Valentine, a dyke Martha Stewart with a shameful secret — no, not that one. Val can't cook. When offered a chance to become a media empire, she knows that renovating the inn in return for cooking lessons is a way to have it all, but only if she can get the work done, and the lessons learned, before she has to put on a traditional country Christmas for the media mogul who wants to promote her. I enjoyed *Making Up For Lost*

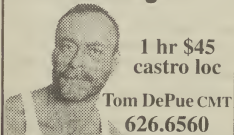


Time on lots of levels. As a romance, it contains enough fantasy to be fun, with a dose of reality that makes it possible. Indeed, if you have a friend who longs to open her own restaurant, you might pass this book along for its detailed look at the joys and pitfalls of self-employment. Kallmaker must be a cook, or she channels one, because the scenes in the various kitchens, professional and other, are fascinating and mouth-watering. The chocolate scenes in particular will change the way you look at frosting forever. Kallmaker even includes recipes for the dishes that figure importantly in the plot. Best of all, *Making Up For Lost Time* is a fun read, interesting, erotic (ah, that chocolate), and remarkably entertaining. ▼

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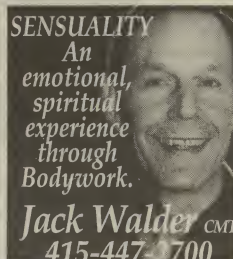


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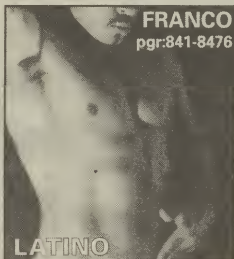
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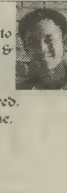
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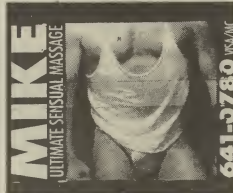
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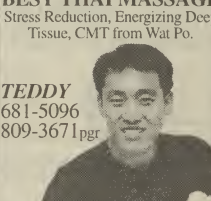
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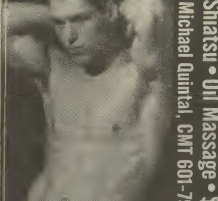
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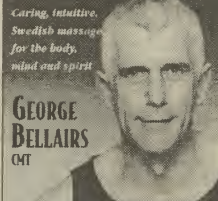
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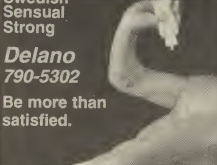
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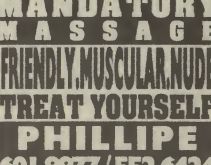
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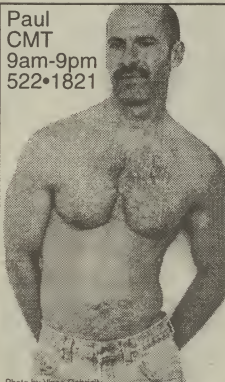
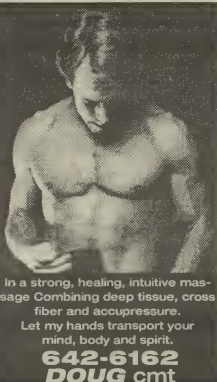


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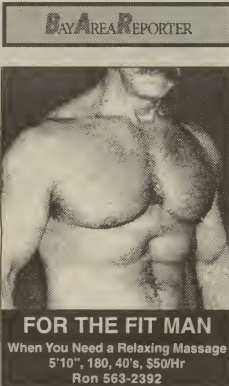
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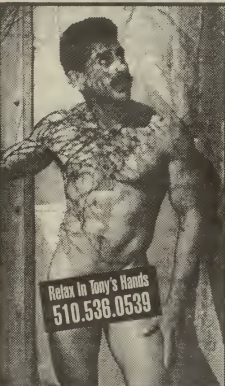
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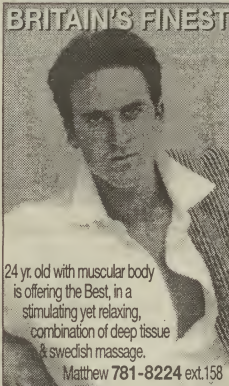


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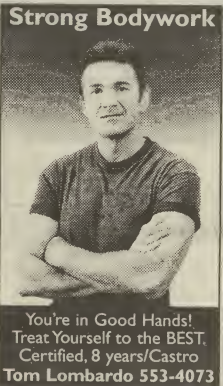
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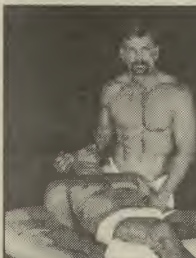
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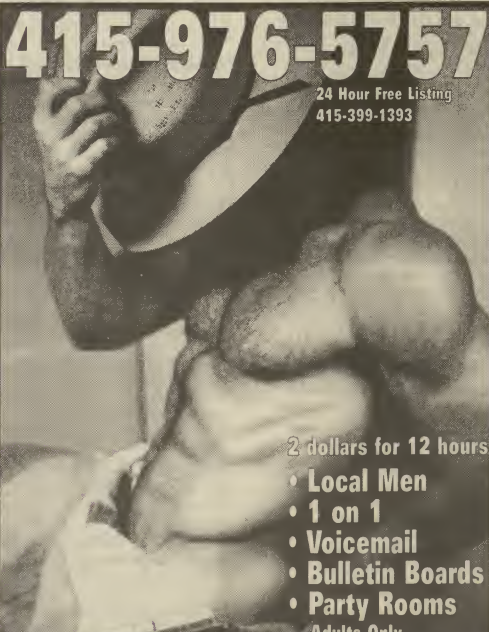


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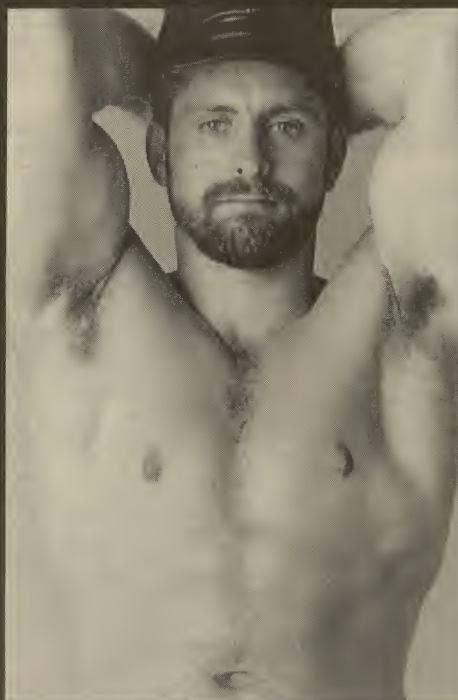
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SM, WS, CBT
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Black, smooth, built to perfection.
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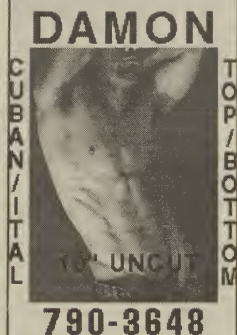
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HANDSOME, FRIENDLY, FUN
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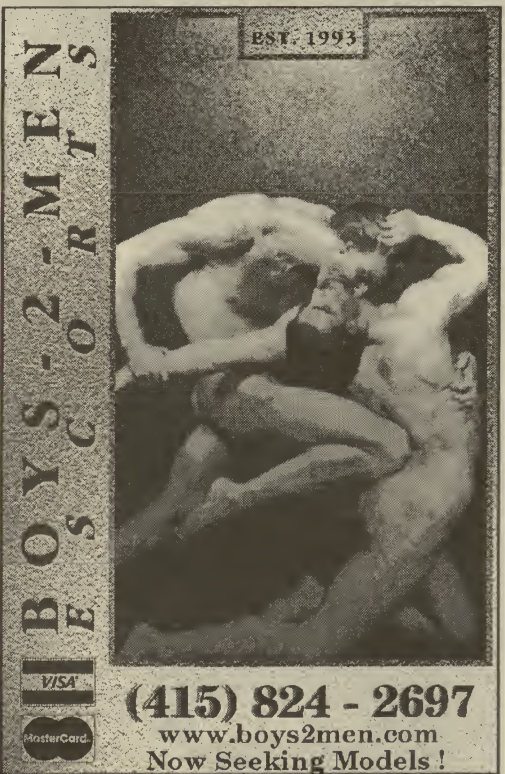
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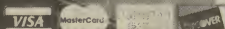
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Very hard inches for your pleasure.
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Clean cut 6'3" 185# blnd/blu
hairy well equipped and great balls
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Handsome hung versatile tall hairy
Luke*24 hrs*Pgr 605-4013 Visa/MC

Sexy, friendly, muscled top. I'm 29
with a hard, defined gymnast's body,
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inches offering hot, sensual, intimate
times with mutual respect and no at-
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5'8", 150 lbs. Do you like having
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Own very obedient slave for all
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FILM LEGEND LOU CASS
28.6'3", 195#. Awesome body.
Real man, built, tuff, huge tool.
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All sorts of sock scenes. 995-9593

Masculine muscular dude
REAL STUD
Friendly, goodlooks and hung!
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I respect boundaries and I am attr.
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YOU WILL FEEL GOOD!
PAGE 224-1233 IN/OUT

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The limit! 27yo, 6', 180#, gym toned
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Gavin.

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The ultimate guy with good looks &
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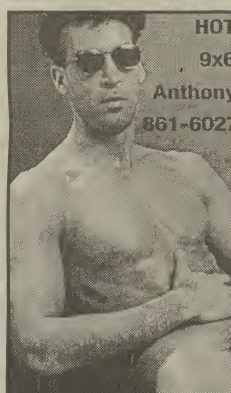
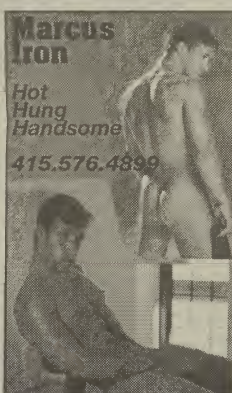
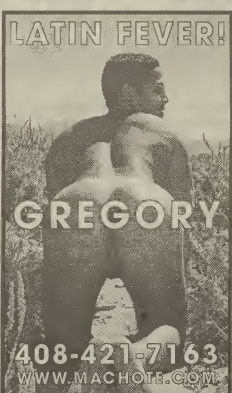
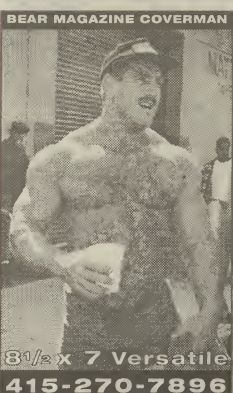
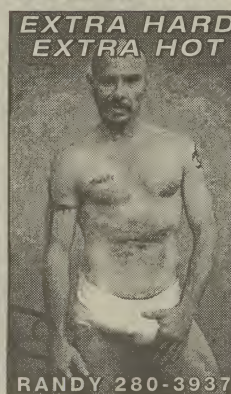
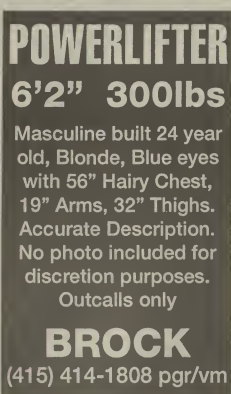
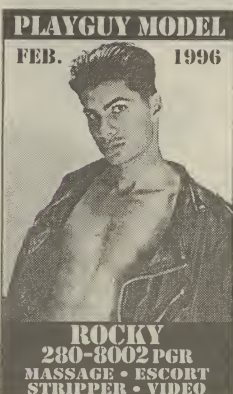
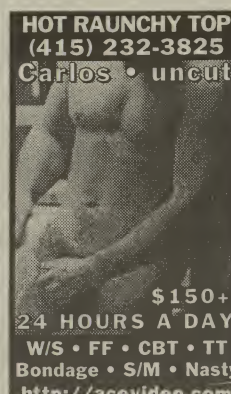
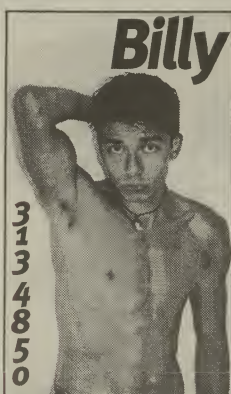
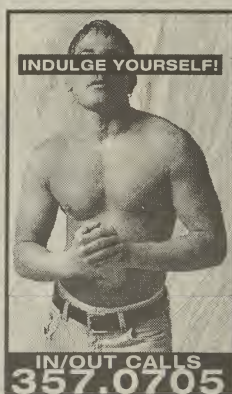
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2. TWENTYFOURSEVEN	4/26 AT 2:30PM, 4/28 AT 7:00PM (KABUKI)
3. THE LAND GIRLS	5/2 AT 7:00PM, 5/4 AT 4:00PM (KABUKI)
4. BLIND FAITH	5/3 AT 2:45PM, 5/5 AT 1:00PM (KABUKI)
5. CHARLES MINGUS: TRIUMPH OF THE UNDERDOG	4/26 AT 1:30PM (PACIFIC FILM ARCHIVE), 4/27 AT 7:00PM, 4/28 AT 1:30PM (KABUKI)
6. BARBIE NATION: AN UNAUTHORIZED TOUR	4/28 AT 5:00PM, 4/30 AT 9:00PM (KABUKI)
7. EVERY LITTLE THING	5/4 AT 6:45PM, 5/5 AT 4:00PM (KABUKI)
8. THE UNDERGROUND ORCHESTRA	4/25 AT 1:30PM (PACIFIC FILM ARCHIVE), 4/26 AT 4:00PM, 4/28 AT 1:15PM (KABUKI)

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4

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